Reviewer's report

Title: Maternal adverse effects of different antenatal magnesium sulphate regimens for improving maternal and infant outcomes: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2013

Reviewer: Jane Norman

Reviewer's report:

General comments.
This is a very important topic - as the authors mention maternal admin of MgSO4 used in pre-eclampsia and in fetal neuroprotection. There remains a perception that maternal MgSo4 is “dangerous” - this paper correctly quantifies this danger, and shows that MgSo4 is largely safe. It will be widely read and cited.

There is a lot of data in this paper which is nicely summarized in some summary paragraphs and by emboldening statistically significant differences.

The strategy of accessing patient blogs and serious adverse events is also to be commended.

Discretionary revisions:

1. Please clarify the use of combination therapy as an exclusion on page 6. Most women with pre-eclampsia will also be having an antihypertensive as well as MgSO4 – were they also excluded?

2. Was there any useful information about the effect of monitoring regimes in the studies? For example it might be that an effective monitoring regimen would minimize the risk of cardiac arrest? Data analysis might be beyond the scope of this paper, but the authors thoughts on this subject could usefully be included in the discussion.

3. Please include a brief note describing the eponymous regimens – eg Pritchards.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests