Reviewer’s report

Title: Ethnic differences in timely adjuvant chemotherapy and radiation therapy for breast cancer in New Zealand: A cohort study

Version: 3  Date: 27 September 2014

Reviewer: Elizabeth Davies

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None. The study answers a precise and important question for cancer services in New Zealand which is relevant to services elsewhere in developed countries, particularly where inequalities in access between different groups have been documented. The study is well-designed and conducted and the paper is very well-written, clear and logical. The statistical analyses are appropriate and well-presented.

Minor essential
None

Discretionary Revisions

My only reflection that does not seem to be currently explicitly mentioned in the discussion is the possibility that Maori women could hold more negative views about the value of adjuvant therapies, particularly radiotherapy. This could mean that it takes health professionals longer to persuade them to attend for treatment, despite other barriers to access being overcome.

For example, there is some evidence emerging for Black African women in the UK being less willing to undergo adjuvant treatments because of a greater fear of their side-effects including loss of hair and fertility and lack of knowledge about them.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests