Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of low back pain in children and adolescents: a meta-analysis

Version: 3 Date: 21 December 2012

Reviewer: Mark Hancock

Reviewer’s report:

I am generally satisfied with the changes the authors have made. A few final suggestions:

1. The change in response to my question 5 are not appropriate. The change says “studies had to be carried out between 1980 and April of 2011, as before 1980 there were not found studies that report LBP prevalence rates for children/adolescents.”

How can you know before you do a search that you will find no studies? This does not make any sense. Also the grammar is poor and needs correcting.

2. The authors did not correctly interpret my comment 11. I was not questioning the finding but asking them to consider the reasons for the findings. The rates of LBP reports did increase BUT there are many possible reasons for this. It could be that children are less active or more overweight etc. It could be that that the actual prevalence has not changed but the reporting has. It could be that the questions used to assess the prevalence have changed etc. It is up the editors if they want the authors to discuss this issue.

3. In response to my previous comment 12 the paragraph on implications has improved but the last sentence still makes no sense and I suggest it is removed.

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 declare that I have no competing interests’