Reviewer's report

Title: The Stigma of Obesity in the General Public and its Implications for Public Health - a Systematic Review

Version: 2 Date: 5 August 2011

Reviewer: Anna Odone

Reviewer's report:

Authors have correctly addressed the majority of comments. However, there are still some major and minor points that need to be addressed.

Major points:

1. The quality of written English is still to be improved. The structure of the text is quite heavy all along the document and many passages are unclear to the reader. Authors should revise the text, pointing out important messages, simplify the structure of the text and avoid complicated and unclear-in-meaning sentences.

2. The first paragraph of the results section (Study characteristics) and figure 1 present different results. How many potentially relevant articles were identified? 35 or 45? How many articles were rejected as not fulfilling the selection criteria? 29 or 39? In addition, numbers in figure 1 need to be carefully checked.

Minor Points:

Abstract

1. “Introducing elaborate models on causes of obesity to the lay public might be a starting point in stigma reduction.” This sentence is not clear, what do you intend by “introducing elaborate model”? Please consider better explain or eliminate the sentence

Background

1. “Respectively, comprehensive knowledge on these components of weight stigma will further help evaluate existing models of stigmatization” Authors should
add “to” before the word “evaluate”. Other similar language errors and typos are present along the text. Please carefully check spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Methods
1. The information on how many articles were firstly identify with the literature search should be add and included in the paragraph “Study characteristics”

Results
2. “Entered into a regression equation, causal attribution of obesity to behavior (internal) contributed to the explanation of variance the most (r² = 0.10)”. This sentence should be moved to the next paragraph on “Causes of obesity/causal attribution.

Discussion
1. Please avoid to use colloquial expression such as “One might regard this…”

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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