Reviewer's report

Title: Socioeconomic inequalities in cardiovascular mortality and the role of childhood socioeconomic conditions and adulthood risk factors: a prospective cohort study with 17-years of follow up

Version: 2 Date: 30 July 2012

Reviewer: alison Beauchamp

Reviewer's report:

Minor revisions
1) It's unclear as to why participants were excluded if they had heart disease within the preceding 5 years only. Given the chronic nature of CVD, it would be preferable to exclude all those who reported ANY history not just of heart disease, but of stroke. If this is not possible, a brief explanation should be provided.

2) Some more discussion/explanation is needed on:
   a) possible explanations for gender-related differences (i.e. material factors in men vs behavioural factors in women, plus the relative importance of physical activity and alcohol consumption in women)
   b) why material and behavioural factors explain more than psychosocial factors
   c) why childhood SEP not as 'important' as adulthood SEP

3) Marital/civil status - use only one term throughout

4) Define 'adulthood' (i.e. age)

5) Figure 1 needs a heading and more explanation

6) Page 13, paragraph 1, last sentence, beginning "However, educational...." is unclear. Could the sentence be rewritten so its meaning is clearer.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests