Reviewer’s report

Title: Pre-pregnancy care for women with pre-gestational diabetes for the prevention of congenital malformations: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 1 Date: 8 July 2012

Reviewer: Danielle Mazza

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The ability of preconception care to help prevent maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality is a critically important issue. The authors need to better define what they mean by preconception care and to consider throughout the article that they are talking about preconception care delivered to diabetic women not the broader population of women.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
Yes

3. Are the data sound?
Yes

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The title is given as:
Pre-pregnancy care for women with pre-gestational diabetes for the prevention of congenital malformations: a systematic review and meta-analysis
However the review goes beyond just looking at congenital malformations and I would suggest deleting “for the prevention of CM” from the title.
9. Is the writing acceptable?
The English requires some careful editing for grammar and spelling.

The authors should undertake the minor revisions described under numbers 1 and 8 above and expand on the importance of their finding that PCC increases the risk of maternal hypoglycaemia. I also think the paper would be enhanced by more info and cross referencing in either the background or the discussion of recent Cochrane reviews concerning PCC e.g. Tieu et al (Tieu J, Middleton P and Crowther CA. Preconception care for diabetic women for improving maternal and infant health) and Whitworth et al (Whitworth M and Dowswell T. Routine pre-pregnancy health promotion for improving pregnancy outcomes. Cochrane Reviews 2009, Issue 4.)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'