Reviewer's report

**Title:** The impact of a Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program (CHAP) on reducing blood pressure: a prospective cohort study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 October 2013

**Reviewer:** Freedom Nkhululeko Gumedze

**Reviewer's report:**

General comments: The paper is an important contribution in health improvement programs for the prevention of cardiovascular disease. The manuscript is well-written.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Page 2: Abstract: Results: 2nd and 3rd sentences: Confidence intervals with same lower and upper limits are given each with p<0.01. How is this possible?

2. Page 8: Statistical analysis: paragraph 2: 4th sentence: The confidence interval of (0.99990, 1.001) includes 1 yet p<0.01. How is this possible?

3. Pages 11-12: Appendix: The bivariate linear mixed-effects model fitted to the data is given. Could the authors comment on why their suggested model did not take into account clustering of patients within communities. On page 2: Methods, it is reported that the data came from 22 midsided Ontario communities.

4. Pages 17: Table 3: The fitted bivariate linear mixed-effects model did not take into account the multi-level nature of the data i.e. clustering of patients within communities. Would the results change if community effects were included?

5. Pages 17: Table 4: Could authors comment on the possible collinearity between the variables BMI, SBP and DBP.

6. Figure 1: This graph should be reconstructed as a bar chart/graph instead of a histogram. The bars should be separated by spaces.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. Figures 3 and 4 could be improved by using other line patterns instead of double lines for confidence interval bands e.g. dotted lines.

- Discretionary Revisions

None
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.