Reviewer's report

Title: Problem drinking as a risk factor for tuberculosis: a propensity score matched analysis of a national survey

Version: 2 Date: 14 June 2013

Reviewer: Brian G Williams

Reviewer's report:

This is a very well written paper, backed up by a strong analysis and it carries an important public health message. I strongly support publication. The propensity score analysis is at the heart of this paper and the methodology is well described. The data are sound but, by the nature of cross-sectional studies using self-reported data, limited. However, the analysis takes great care to allow for potential confounders and even to probe the likelihood that unmeasured confounders could have produced the observed result. A very impressive analysis indeed. The authors acknowledge previous work, the message is conveyed clearly and the writing is clear and succinct.

Having read this excellent paper I have only one quibble which is for the journal to decide. There is an increasing tendency for people to write about multivariable analysis when they mean multivariate analysis. Since all analyses must have at least two variables, one dependant and one independent, all analyses, by definition, are multivariable. For this reason the word variate is conventionally used with the understanding that variate refers to the independent variables only.

Level of interest: An exceptional article

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