Reviewer's report

Title: The National Women's Health Study: methods and description of the study population

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2004

Reviewer: Lesley Regan

Reviewer's report:

This is an excellent epidemiological study of women and their reproductive histories. This is an area that has been poorly researched in the past and this paper goes a long way to redressing the balance.

There are a paucity of UK population based studies, most reports using highly selective recruits which means that the results are invariably affected by ascertainment bias.

There are several particular strengths, namely
1) the large scale of the study
2) women based (rather than pregnancy based)
3) representative of general UK population

I look forward to seeing this important publication in print and would like to take the opportunity of congratulating the authors.

I am happy to have my name disclosed to the authors General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

none