Reviewer's report

Title: Comparability of HbA1c and lipids measured with dried blood spot versus venous samples: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: Date: 16 December 2013

Reviewer: William Funk

Reviewer's report:

Major Essential Revisions:
2. Results from above reference provide results for HbA1c, TC, and HDL that may alter overall findings.
3. Authors should do a final literature review to make sure other key publications are not missed.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Many typos and inconsistent punctuation.
2. Page 2, Line 1, add (HbA1c) after haemoglobin
3. Page 2, Line 7, change haemoglobin to (HbA1c)
4. Many places period needs to be placed after reference instead of before reference.
5. Page 6, Last line, "no studies reporting HDL" needs to be updated (see missing reference above).
6. Page 8, Line 13, dried blood spot already defined, use "DBS"

Overall:
Paper is well written and provides a review in the state-of-the-art for DBS use for quantifying biomarkers associated with cardiovascular health. This review is timely as DBS methods are being applied more regularly to large cohort studies, and provided several advantages to venous blood methods in studies with limited resources.

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