Reviewer's report

**Title:** Stakeholder views of ethical guidance regarding prevention and care in HIV vaccine trials

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 4 February 2014

**Reviewer:** Leslie Swartz

**Reviewer's report:**

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

This is an interesting and well-written manuscript. It deals with a rather narrow subject and reads somewhat long-windedly – there is considerable overlap between what appears in the tables and what in the text, and the paper can be shortened substantially. The ‘figures’ are essentially screen-shots of data and these are difficult to read – they would be better formatted as conventional tables. I am not convinced that the conclusions and recommendations are actually conclusions and recommendations from the work – the authors need to think a little more about the implications of what they have and have not found. A reflection on the strengths and limitations of the methods used (beyond simply recommending qualitative studies) would be helpful. Overall, though, there are useful data here on a topic which is insufficiently explored.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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