Reviewer's report

Title: Cholesterol treatment with statins: Who is left out and who makes it to goal?

Version: 1 Date: 3 November 2009

Reviewer: Elved Roberts

Reviewer's report:

This is an important article investigating access to and quality of statin therapy across a varied at risk population in a largely insurance based / private finance healthcare system. The sample size is sufficiently large for conclusions to be drawn and the NHANES dataset from which it is drawn is of good quality.

The article sets out appropriate background and aims and describes methods and statistical calculations accurately. Appropriate analyses were carried out.

Results and conclusions relate to the stated aims and the discussion is relevant. I think that one should be cautious in drawing conclusions about target level lipid attainment on account of the relatively small subgroups involved in some cases, but this is acknowledged in the limitations section. An analysis corrected for statin cost would have been very interesting and informative. Discussion drawing in any relevant data or research from parts of Europe where central Government funding of healthcare is provided with less reliance on personal or insurance funding would have been very interesting.

There are minor formatting imperfections in table 2.

The article is clear and concisely written.

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:

No competing interests