Reviewer's report

Title: Comparative effectiveness of antihypertensive medication for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. Systematic review and multiple treatments meta-analysis.

Version: 4 Date: 31 January 2012

Reviewer: Milo Puhan

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed most of the comments. I may not agree with some decisions made by the authors but I acknowledge that some decisions are arbitrary in this area where a number of methodological questions remains.

The only point that I would like to raise is the assessment of inconsistency. I think this should be addressed in the main body of the manuscript (show appendix 6 as a main table) because one of the key questions of this work how much indirect evidence adds to direct evidence. There is not other way to show this than by putting appendix table 6 into the main body of the paper. Finally, I disagree with assessing inconsistency by comparing direct estimates and MTC estimates because these estimates are not independent and underestimate inconsistency, Ideally, direct, indirect and MTC estimates would be reported.

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