Reviewer's report

Title: Compliance of Clinical Trial Registers with the World Health Organization Minimum Data Set: A Survey

Version: 2 Date: 7 January 2009

Reviewer: Christian Gluud

Reviewer's report:

The study by Moja and collaborators shows that a number of selected trial registers do not live up to the WHO minimum data set requirements, that some positive developments took place during the 2005 to 2007 period, but that individual trial records at the 2005 level leaves a lot to be desired.

I have the following comments:

# Major Compulsory Revisions

None!

# Minor Essential Revisions

1. On p. 3 the sentence reading "..and individual trial records within trial registers complied with" could be changed into "..and individual trial records within the selected trial registers complied with".

2. How was the sample size of 600 trial records reached?

3. The 610 trial records assessed were all selected between April and August 2005. This is before the documented improvements in the registers have taken place. This needs to be addressed in the Discussion.

4. On p. 4 we learn that 10/100 is 10%. It seems a bit too paternalistic for my taste.

5. Several times 'trials' are referred to as 'studies' (eg, p 5 and p. 6). I suggest to call them what they are: trials.

6. On p. 8 Rennie should likely not be referred to both under 'Interpretation and critical revision' and under 'Acknowledgments'.

7. In Table 2 either data from the local register should be included or 'Local' should be deleted from the Table and dealt with otherwise in the text.

8. In table 2 the meaning of PND is not fully obvious to me.

9. The heading to Table 3 could be improved by adding 'of trial records* after compliance.
10. I suggest the authors become a bit more explicit in the discussion on what are the requirements for the future.

# Discretionary Revisions

None!

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'