Reviewer's report

Title: Adaptive Clinical Trial Designs for European Marketing Authorisation - A Survey of Scientific Advice Letters at the European Medicines Agency

Version: 2 Date: 11 August 2014

Reviewer: Martin Jenkins

Reviewer's report:

Although two of my suggested compulsory revisions were not made the authors provide clear rationale for why they decided not to make these additions. Whilst other readers of the article may wonder about these questions too I appreciate the reasons given from a regulatory standpoint and so as such I find the article suitable to approve.

As a discretionary revision the second of these prior comments (on the bottom section of table 2) could however be aided by a statement in that table that the issues raised in the CHMP answer relate to both designs that were conditionally accepted and those not accepted as that was one thing which was not clear, even if there is no further cross-tabulation completed.

As a minor point there are a couple of typos in the new paragraphs.

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:

Employee and shareholder of AstraZeneca