Reviewer’s report

Title: Reporting of Clinical Trials: a review of guidelines

Version: 2 Date: 19 June 2008

Reviewer: David Liebeskind

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript addresses a critical issue threatening to undermine the basis of evidence-based medicine. RCTs represent the culmination of research translation before adoption in routine clinical practice. As the authors note, publication bias remains an influential factor. They conduct a meticulous review of organizations to examine guidelines in reporting and disclose potential limitations that surround outcome reporting bias. In many subspecialty fields, there remains a dissociation between trial protocol content and adherence with ultimate publication. Selective attention may be devoted to certain outcomes in a publication, irrespective of the original, planned outcome measures. Space and cost are often cited as limiting factors by trialists, organizations, and even editors, yet the public is misled by such midstream changes. The authors are to be congratulated on tackling what remains only a first step in critically evaluating and reforming the process of reporting important clinical research information.

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.