Reviewer’s report

Title: Protocol for a systematic review and economic evaluation of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of non-hospital based non-invasive ventilation (NIV) in patients with stable end stage COPD with hypercapnic respiratory failure

Version: 2  Date: 17 January 2014

Reviewer: Kerry Dwan

Reviewer’s report:

There are a few further details that need to be addressed.

1. survival is now mentioned in the abstract but mortality in the main text.
2. The analysis section needs further work. It needs to be made clear whether there will be a narrative synthesis or quantitative synthesis. 95% confidence intervals should be presented with the pooled treatment effect estimate. More information on the analysis of a network meta-analysis/multiple treatment comparison needs to be included i.e. Bayesian using Winbugs or frequentist using STATA? If a Bayesian approach is used, what prior will be used?
3. Although the authors state that different timepoints are likely to be reported, it would be useful to note what are the clinically relevant timepoints.