Reviewer's report

Title: Safety and effectiveness of antiretroviral therapies for HIV-infected women and their infants and children: Protocol for a systematic review and network meta-analysis

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2014

Reviewer: Mark Rodgers

Reviewer's report:

This is a thorough and well written protocol. There are only a couple of points where I feel clarification might be needed (described below).

1. Is the study design appropriate?
   Yes.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?
   Mostly yes. It appears that interventions were restricted to anti-retrovirals approved for use in Canada, but there does not appear to be any restriction by country/setting. Will evidence from low and middle income countries therefore be eligible for inclusion? If so, will country/setting be considered a source of heterogeneity in the analysis?

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
   The pairwise and network meta-analyses are well described. However, it is not entirely clear how eligible observation evidence (including cohort, case control and registry data) will be incorporated into the analysis. Some elaboration on the anticipated handling of non-trial data in general would be helpful.

4. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes.