Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effect of Sexually Transmitted co-Infections on HIV Viral Load amongst Individuals on Antiretroviral Therapy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Version: 3 Date: 30 March 2015

Reviewer: Ruanne V Barnabas

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and important systematic review and meta-analysis looking at the impact of STIs on viral load with the use of ART. While there was a paucity of data, the change in viral load with STIs was small. The paper is well written and the analysis was rigorous.

Major point
1. Were there any papers looking at changes in viral load in the first 3 months of ART initiation i.e. prior to viral load suppression. What are the authors thoughts about this early period - seems like the time when STI co-infection could have the largest impact on viral load.

2. Please report briefly how study quality was assessed?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.