Reviewer’s report

Title: Specialist and Primary Care Physicians' Views on Barriers to Adequate Preparation of Patients for Renal Replacement Therapy: A Qualitative Study

Version: 2 Date: 7 December 2014

Reviewer: Jyoti BAHARANI

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential Revisions

In my opinion this is a thoughtful qualitative paper, that is well written. It explores perspectives and viewpoints on health care providers perceptions of what comprises of barriers to the adequate preparation of patients for RRT.

As it is based in North America, it remains to stand, that readers not working in that environment may not be well versed with the health-care structure and the premises under which Nephrology is practiced. It would therefore be important for the authors to include information to provide more insight to readers.

This should include, referral numbers per annum and size of dialysis population. Numbers of patients commencing home therapy versus those that start treatment in the hospital. Numbers of unplanned starts, numbers starting on non-permanent access etc. These would be valuable in setting the scene and providing insight to readers.

Although the authors correctly state that there is little information on this subject in the literature, they should what is known on this topic in other areas of medicine- in particular parallels from other chronic illness such as Diabetes where this sort of work has been done.

They have perhaps mistakenly headed the discussion as conclusions- this needs to be re-headed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests