Reviewer’s report

Title: Understanding Barriers to Optimal Disease and Medication Management for Those Requiring Long-term Dialysis: Rationale and Design for an Observational Study of a Multi-ethnic New Zealand Cohort

Version: 2 Date: 24 November 2014

Reviewer: Hugh Rayner

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary revisions

1) the study design appears to be based upon interviewing each patient about one medication that they are taking. These can vary considerably, for example from a subcutaneous erythropoietin stimulating agent to a dietary phosphate binder. The choice of agent discussed is left to the patient.

One could propose that problems with adherence differ between different types of medication. It is not clear how the issues of adherence that differ between types of medication will be studied independently of the other demographic factors that are being studied when the choice of medication being discussed is not chosen at random.

2) the interviews are not being recorded but are being conducted by a pair of interviewers. It is not clear why they are not being recorded for future qualitative or thematic analysis.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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