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: 13 December 2014

Reviewer: Konstadina Griva

Reviewer’s report:

This is interesting pilot study to identify factors associated with self-report medication adherence. The proposed methodology is clearly described and procedures/measurement can provide some preliminary findings on role of certain key psychosocial variables.

My main reservation relates to low power that may threaten the generalisability of findings and their potential contribution to the current literature.

The authors claim that determinants of non adherence are not well understood – which is only partly true as there are several studies documenting associations between cognitions/beliefs and non adherence in hemodialysis yet the proposed investigation lacks power to ascertain relationships more confidently.

The proposed sample size is too small and target population too heterogenous to draw any meaningful conclusions to guide future interventions.

The target sample of 100 patients is purposeful very diverse including patients on different modalities (Home HD and PD and HD that ) and from different ethnic background. The resulting sungroups would therefore be far too small to allow tailoring of programs of support.

I would hence like to suggest increasing sample size or perhaps limiting to one modality so that more meaningful conclusions can potentially be drawn

Minor point: Would parental consent be sought for patients unde the age of 18 (or is 16 considered adequate for consent); related to this are questionnaires validated to use for patients below age of 18.

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