Reviewer's report

Title: Reference intervals for plasma sulfate and urinary sulfate excretion in pregnancy

Version: 2
Date: 9 November 2014

Reviewer: Rosemary Keogh

Reviewer's report:

Dawson et al. present a well written and interesting manuscript reporting reference ranges for sulphate during human gestation. The manuscript is logically presented, the study thoroughly conducted and the data appropriately analyzed and clearly explained. No reference ranges have previously been reported for plasma sulphate during pregnancy thus the work is novel and addresses a gap in current knowledge. The data reported has the potential to be applied when investigating disorders of pregnancy, most notably miscarriage.

Minor Essential Revisions
The manuscript would benefit from the addition of a table summarizing the clinical data of the patient cohorts. Whilst the data is referred to in the text and used for the comparisons made in the data presented, a summary of gestational ages at sampling and birth, parity, gravidity, gender etc would be helpful.

Discretionary Revisions
Please indicate whether 'written' informed consent was obtained.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.