Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening for Iron Deficiency and Iron Deficiency Anaemia in Pregnancy: A Structured Review and Gap Analysis Against UK National Screening Criteria

Version: 2
Date: 1 June 2015

Reviewer: Maureen Okam

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, the authors appraise the existing evidence in maternal iron deficiency against the UK National Screening Committee criteria determining the likely impact of a screening program on iron deficiency in pregnancy and its effect on outcomes. The authors successfully embark on an extensive review of the literature in order to address the standard questions posed by the National Screening Committee.

Major Compulsory Revisions: none

Minor Essential Revisions:
Line 156: It is unclear how intrauterine contraceptive device use can increase risk of iron deficiency. Could a clause be added to clarify this?
Line 314: Please clarify what 'routine supplementation' refers to. Is this iron supplementation in a pill form or prenatal vitamins?
Line 323: Please provide a reference for the sentence that ends with 'standards'
Line 338: In addition, increasing the sensitivity of testing may be achieved simply by more widespread measurement of ferritin. This should be addressed briefly in the paragraph.
Line 559: In table 2, under 'acceptability and efficacy of treatments' a reference is needed for the statement that IV iron causes infections.

Discretionary Revisions: The authors may consider shortening the manuscript in portions that would allow (for instance, the background and the importance of the problem), as the manuscript is currently somewhat lengthy.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.