Reviewer's report

Title: Gender Disparities of Chronic Musculoskeletal Disorder Burden in the Elderly Ghanaian Population: Study on Global Ageing and Adult Health (SAGE WAVE 1)

Version: 2
Date: 9 May 2015
Reviewer: Adewale Adebajo

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well written study, but a few issues require clarification:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) There is no mention of whether or not the authors selected a subgroup of participants to use to validate the self reported musculoskeletal symptoms either by reviewing their medical records or even by clinically examining them.

2) There does appear to be a difference in the prevalence of joint symptoms between women in urban as compared to rural areas. This is particularly of interest as some early studies on rheumatoid arthritis in South Africa suggested a higher prevalence of this condition in urban areas than in rural areas.

3) It is not entirely clear which specific health and social interventions the authors are recommending in order to address the unmet need that they have identified.

4) References relating to the more recent WHO Burden of Disease findings (published more recently) with regards to musculoskeletal disorders are not included in the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) There are several spelling mistakes.

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.