**Reviewer’s report**

**Title**: Prevalence, awareness, and associated risk factors of hypertension in older adults in Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis protocol

**Version**: 1  **Date**: 07 Sep 2017

**Reviewer**: Alexander Tsertsvadze

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Title**

* I suggest to revise the title as follows: "Prevalence, awareness, and associated risk factors of hypertension in older adults in Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis protocol"

The authors need to remove 'treatment' and 'control' terms from the title. The reason being that these are different constructs, which need separate searches. I am not convinced that included studies will systematically cover these constructs. Besides, the authors barely cover these issues in the methodology of protocol. Ideally, 'treatment' and 'control' should be discussed as much as 'prevalence' by providing their definitions and ways to measure/ascertain them. I suggest to drop these terms. Not sure why the authors removed 'associated risk factors' from the title. If they are keen on keeping 'awareness' why not 'associated risk factors'? Regarding 'awareness' and 'risk factors', the authors may mention this as a limitation to caution that these terms will not be systematically searched.

**Methods - data analysis and synthesis**

* The following sentence (Line 286): "We will perform a sensitivity analysis to examine the effect of excluding studies with high risk of bias on the overall prevalence and relationships" needs to be placed right after the sentence on subgroup analysis and before 'reporting bias' (Line 302)

* The following sentence (Line 289-292): "The prevalence will be summarised using as a proportion prevalence and summary measures of risk factor-hypertension association presented as odds ratios" should be moved up to Line 286 to follow the sentence: "The prevalence data and risk factors from the different studies will be summarised using narrative synthesis."

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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**Quality of written English**
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Acceptable

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