APPENDIX 2: EXPERT PEER REVIEW TEMPLATE

**Reviewer Template**

Reviewer Name: Robert S

Paper: Patient Factors Predicting the Success or Failure of Sitagliptin Therapy in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Date: 28.07.15

***Comments from Reviewer***

Please highlight ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and give comments as needed.

General attributes

* Title – is it appropriate? Y/N

*Comment:*

* Originality – anything new, worthwhile? Y/N

*Comment: This paper addresses an important clinical question, which has not been fully addressed in previous studies.*

Comprehensiveness – does it cover important issues on the topic? Y/N

*Comment:*

* Abstract – adequate, concise? Y/N

*Comment:*

* Readability – is it clear, comprehensible? Y/N

*Comment:*

* Reader interest – is it of interest to expected readers? Y/N

*Comment:*

Scientific Attributes

* Study design – it is appropriate for study objectives? Y/N

*Comment: The study has the limitation of being a small retrospective study, but it is a "real world" study capable of yielding useful significant results*

* Limitations – are these addressed? Y/N

*Comment:*

* Analysis – is it appropriate (statistical or other)? Y/N

*Comment: The authors state the study limitations, but do not state the strengths. The study examines an important practical clinical question in a "real world" setting. It therefore gives some useful clinical relevant results about current practice, which are not be obtainable in a controlled clinical trial.*

*The paper states that treatment failures in patients on prior sulphonylurea treatment may be due to beta cell failure. A simpler explanation is that Sitagliptin may have equal or less hypoglycaemic potency.*

*The rate of treatment failure with Sitagliptin is surprisingly high, compared to results from controlled clinical trials. Overall these patients appear to have a worsening in control when "successes" and "failures" are combined. The majority of patients were on dual therapy at the beginning of the study and this suggests that a common cause of failure is withdrawal of one drug (eg. sulphonylureas) - which is required under current PBS rules.*

* Results – are they clearly presented? Y/N

*Comment (Please include comment on tables and figures):*

* Discussion and conclusions – are they relevant to the study objectives and findings; appropriate comparisons to other studies? Y/N

*Comment:*

* References – are they adequate, accurate, up-to-date? Y/N

*Comment:*

Overall Recommendation

Mark ‘Yes’ next to one option only

1. Accept manuscript in current form
2. Accept with revisions Yes
3. Major revision and review again
4. Reject

Would you be willing to review a revision of this manuscript? Y/N

*Comment: Authors should highlight comments under "Analysis"*

*Confidential comments for the editor:*

*Specific Comments for the author about required revision:*

See above