Reviewer’s report

Title: Randomized clinical trial to evaluate the effect of a supervised exercise training program on readmissions in patients with myocardial ischemia: a study protocol

Version: 2 Date: 28 February 2013

Reviewer: Clinton Brawner

Reviewer’s report:

The revised manuscript by Santaularia et al., “Randomized clinical trial to evaluate the effect of a supervised exercise training program on readmissions in patients with myocardial ischemia: a study protocol” shows meaningful improvement over the original submission. For the most part, they have addressed the reviewer’s comments.

Major revisions/considerations

1. It remains unclear whether the primary hypothesis will be tested using Chi-square (Statistical Issues, paragraph 1) or a time-to-event analysis (Statistical Issues, paragraph 5). Time-to-event would be a stronger methodology.

2. Discussion, paragraph 2, last sentence: The fact that there currently is no cardiac rehabilitation program within this hospital and possibly the region is an important point. This addresses the ethical concern - mentioned in the original review - that a standard of care is being withheld.

Minor revisions/considerations

1. Statistical Issues, paragraphs 1 & 5: Consider including “cardiac” with each mention of hospital readmission.

2. Limitations, paragraph 1, sentence 2: This meaning is not clear. I think you mean it may be difficult to enroll patients who do not live near the hospital; therefore the final cohort may not be representative of the entire catchment area.

3. I don’t see where Figure 1 is called out within the text.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.