**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Delivering enhanced Cardio-vascular Disease-hypertension care through private health facilities in Pakistan

**Version: 1 Date:** 19 December 2012

**Reviewer:** Rohina Joshi

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major comments**

This is an important study which is much needed in low and middle income settings. The model of care looking at the public and private sector mix and the following the success of the DOTS program is unique. However, the paper has limitations which I have listed below. I would like to see a revised version of this paper with the following changes:

1. There is a lot of repetition in the paper which can be avoided. E.g. the outcomes have been repeated in the background and methods section
2. While the paper is titled delivering enhanced hypertension care, the intervention includes glycaemic control, smoking cessation and cholesterol control. Why not change the title to delivering enhanced cardiovascular care as the authors are targeting all the major risk factors of CVD?
3. The discussion section is weak. It would be useful to know what programs of care are currently available and how this intervention can change that.
4. Provide a link to the guidelines used in this study. If these are standard guidelines, mention and reference them.
5. The section on ‘Phases of the trial’ is very long. It would be useful to have a flowchart/table explaining the various stages and expected outcomes of the study.
6. Why are people with known hypertension excluded from the study? It is well documented that about 50% of known hypertensives are not properly managed. Kindly provide the rationale for this.

**Minor comments**

1. NCDs and CVDs are mentioned as a single entity, which is not the case, CVDs are a part of NCDs must like cancers, mental health. I would request the authors to use the term CVD as a stand alone term.
2. Research question (page 8, paragraph 2) How effective and feasible is it to deliver…. It’ is missing’.
3. “A study done in urban settings (by Jafari et al) found that 27.6%, 39.3% and 45.3% of hypertensive patients suffer from concomitant diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, and smoking respectively”. Smoking is not a disease. The authors may want to rephrase the sentence to – 45.3% of people with
Hypertension are smokers.

4. Involvement of the Association – kindly provide details about The Association

5. In the inclusion/exclusion criteria, it has been mentioned that certain groups will be excluded, could you let the readers know if these participants will be directed to the relevant health professionals for further care. E.g. a pregnant woman with hypertension would be referred to an obstetrician or a person with past history of CVD would be directed to a cardiologist.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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