Reviewer's report

Title: An intervention to reassure patients about test results in rapid access chest pain clinic: a pilot randomised controlled trial [ISRCTN60618114]

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2014

Reviewer: Michael Debney

Reviewer's report:

Overall I feel this is an excellent piece of research; well-framed, designed and presented. As such I have no suggestions for major compulsory revisions and only two minor essential revisions.

Major Compulsory Revisions
- None

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Whilst the findings of the manuscript referenced as "Oldroyd et al" (pg7 & 14) are certainly going to be worthwhile I feel that it adds little to the current manuscript by including them here. It is useful as a reviewer to know that this has been thought of and I look forward to seeing the results but don't think it needs referencing or mentioning in the current manuscript. Would suggest removal.

2. There are a lot of data presented in both text and table form regarding various scores; HADS anxiety, Depression, BIPQ, SAQ-UK etc. The only real differences that I can gleam are that the rate of successful completion of these questionnaires decreased with time (to be expected, especially at 6/12 post first visit) and there were no significant differences between treatment groups in any score. There are vague reports in the text (results) that there were some differences in SAQ scores that returned to normal but no statistical significances generated (the tables are missing columns for p values or other suitable comparative tests...). I would suggest significantly condensing the reporting of these secondary outcomes; if there are true significances then provide statistical proof, if not then I would keep the methods, discussion and tables brief so as not to detract from the main primary findings.

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.