Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of an interactive CD-program on 6 months readmission rate in patients with heart failure - a randomised, controlled trial [NCT00311194]

Version: 1 Date: 9 May 2006

Reviewer: Sandra Dunbar

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

This is a well written study describing a study of importance to readers and providers who are involved in efforts to improve self care for heart failure patients. The strengths of the study include the randomized controlled design, the sample size and description of power calculations, the attempt to obtain complete data through chart abstractions, and the statistical treatment of the data. The manuscript could be improved by more details on the knowledge questionnaire (how developed, reference etc) and a table listing content of the CD. The authors refer readers to another paper, but it would be helpful to have it in this paper. In the conclusions, the authors acknowledge possible reasons for lack of effect of the intervention, however, they do not connect knowledge with behavior change which would be important in attempting to link the intervention with such robust outcomes as mortality and hospitalization.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.