Reviewer's report

Title: Quitline Referral vs. Self-help Manual for Tobacco Use Cessation in the Emergency Department: A Prospective Pilot Study

Version: 3 Date: 8 May 2007

Reviewer: Esteve Fernandez

Reviewer's report:

General

In my opinion the authors have addressed most of the reviewer’s comments but the main concern (sample size limitation) remains, given that it’s a problem with the design and execution of the study, and cannot be solved a posteriori.

In my opinion, the authors continue to overstate the strengths of the study and do not recognize its strong limitations. The title itself could be a first way to acknowledge it, by including after the : ‘feasibility study instead of “a prospective pilot study”. And thereafter the authors should made it clearer throughout the text (objective and discussion). There is some overstatement in the Conclusions. They do not agree with the results (that are null in respect to the efficacy of the QL vs the book and even null in respect to the feasibility of the intervention—with only 20 subjects investigated any conclusion goes beyond is reasonably acceptable in a scientific paper).

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)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)