Reviewer's report

Title: Intervention dose estimation in health promotion programmes: a framework and a tool. Application to the PRALIMAP trial.

Version: 1 Date: 24 May 2012

Reviewer: Flora Tzelepis

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Nil

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract, Methods & Results: Apart from the last sentence the Methods section appears to describe the Results rather than the Methods used to develop the framework and tool.
Similarly the first three sentences in the Abstract’s Results section focus on the methods used to develop the framework etc. Suggest restructuring the Methods and the Results sections in the Abstract so that the methods outlines the steps undertaken to develop the framework and the tool and the results focus on the features that constitute the framework and the application to the PRALIMAP data.

Abstract, Methods: Suggest spell out IRG so reads “intervention-related groups (IRG).”

Methods: The paper’s methods section should focus on the techniques used to develop the framework and tool (eg, literature reviews, working groups etc). Could include a subheading for example “Development of framework” and list the steps involved. There appears to be results in the Methods section for example the sentence that begins with “The framework includes the following stages: ....” should be included in the Results section rather than the Methods.

Methods, first paragraph: change ‘declined’ to ‘defined’ so reads ‘…each of which was defined in terms of quantity and quality.

Results, Data collection: The statement “It retrospectively assesses there …..” appears to have some typos or even possibly some words missing.

Discretionary Revisions

Background: Could add further research into the Background section – for example, could detail the findings of the three reviews (reference 1, 16, 18) in the Background section prior to the objectives of the current study being introduced.

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