Reviewer's report

Title: Simultaneous evaluation of abstinence and relapse using a Markov chain model in smokers enrolled in a two-year randomized trial

Version: 2 Date: 13 April 2012

Reviewer: Kevin Delucchi

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a complete job of responding to the initial reviews and, except for minor edits to the wording noted below, no further change is needed prior to publication.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  None

- Minor Essential Revisions
  There are a few minor errors in the language.
  Background: Contrast to GEE… should read In contrast…
  Background: See details in Method section. Should read Methods…
  Sensitivity analysis: …interpreted with cautions. Should read …with caution.
  Discussion: we apply a Markov chain, should read we applied a Markov chain.
  Conclusions: the factors associate with, should read associated with.

- Discretionary Revisions
  None

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.