Reviewer's report

Title: Recruiting vulnerable populations in survey research: a comparative trial of 'opt in' versus 'opt out' approaches

Version: 1 Date: 30 July 2012

Reviewer: Akke Vellinga

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting paper with important findings that can be of help to others that want to do observational research with little risk to the patients involved. However, there a number of serious issues that need to be addressed before a decision can be made on publication. Please find my report below. This is meant to be helpful, however I feel that without these issues addressed, the paper in its current format is a poor reflection of its potential.

My detailed report is in attached document

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests