Reviewer’s report

Title: Randomized controlled trial on cardiovascular risk management by practice nurses supported by self-monitoring

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2012

Reviewer: Liam Glynn

Reviewer’s report:

In this randomized controlled trial on cardiovascular risk management by practice nurses supported by self-monitoring, the rationale for the study is well established and is novel and the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

The objectives are well described and well elucidated and the statistical methods used are clearly described and well presented. The standard of written English is excellent.

The discussion and conclusions are balanced and but could be better supported by data and the limitations section is incomplete. Please see comments below.

All in all this is a worthy and well described piece of work with some good lessons for clinical practice in primary care but these need to be more carefully elucidated taking into account the comments below.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The key comments I have for the authors center around the trial design and process. Is there an adequate explanation for not using a cluster design as the contamination effect with the trained nurses seeing control and intervention group patients is a concern. In addition, I would like to see how many actual visits for care were undertaking by the control group versus the intervention group to get some sense of this difference in order to judge the outcomes more clearly. These two issues may well have contributed to the similar improvements seen in the two groups which in fairness is recognized but not explained adequately by the authors.

Discretionary Revisions

The addition of the community setting to the title may be helpful to readers.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests