Reviewer's report

Title: The effectiveness of medical assistant health coaching for low-income patients with uncontrolled diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia: protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 17 December 2012

Reviewer: Athena Philis-Tsimikas

Reviewer's report:

This is a methodological paper with the early recruitment results. Overall this is a worthwhile study to have this early design published so that others in similar environments contemplating undertaking similar studies can learn from the tools and process being described in this paper.

There is one area of confusion in the Identification and recruitment section on page 5. It describes the A1c and LDL levels needed to be recruited but not the BP, yet later in the paper it states that having any one of the three out of range could qualify the participant for enrollment. Please clarify this section.

Also, a little over 1/2 of the patients in the pool found by the EMR did not qualify because they didn't meet enrollment criteria. Did this mean they had A1c, LDL and BP that were all below the criteria needed for enrollment? Please clarify if that is the case.

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 have no competing interests.