Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of Care Management Processes and Integration of Care on Blood Pressure Control in Diabetes

Version: 2 Date: 18 July 2012

Reviewer: Joanne M Dalton

Reviewer's report:

The authors have made the majority of the recommended changes. However, the authors did not make the major compulsory recommended change:

“The overview of the prior research should be included in the Background section under a subheading of Literature Review not in the Discussion section. Once presented in the Background, the author can refer back to the research in the discussion.”

Another reviewer supports the need for a more complete review of the literature as well. Another reviewer noted that:

“What isn’t clear is how this expands on existing findings from prior studies cited by the authors. The authors detail results from several studies by L. Solberg et al and others attributing practice systems to quality of care but haven’t further clarified how results of the study by Wong et al demonstrate either a stronger association with care management processes or issues for why care management or other components aren’t strongly associated with practices with higher BP control rates.”

And

“Provide a clearer focus on why this current study adds to the existing literature. It is unclear how this study provides new information. Authors mention the study includes 28 large practices across the US. What was the impetus for selecting these sites - were they participating in a special program to improve practices systems; contracted to improve hypertension care with diabetic patients; recently adopted health information systems; part of trial to improve diabetic care? Revise the discussion to better explain the significance of the current study in addition to existing studies that find similar results. If the authors have data on general hypertensive patients, in addition to non-diabetic patients, it would be of interest to the audience if certain practices systems are needed to help drive improvements in blood pressure control (there is mention in the results section that there were 8,400 patients with hypertension and this study focused on 2,162
comorbid with diabetes). As the authors point out, the existing literature did not observed a strong correlation of practice systems with BP control, yet the results cited by the authors aren’t much stronger — “trend towards correlation” is not much stronger than previous findings.”

Therefore, I would not recommend accepting this manuscript until a complete review of the literature which supports the need for this research is included in the Background.

**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 I have no competing interests.