Reviewer’s report

Title: Testing a Peer Support Intervention for People with Type 2 Diabetes: a Pilot for a Randomised Controlled Trial

Version: 2 Date: 13 October 2012

Reviewer: Doris Young

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions
A very thoroughly described pilot of a RCT to assess peer support for people with type 2 DM in the community to manage and improve their diabetes care. Lessons learnt will guide the main trial. The following clarifications are needed to improve the paper:

1. distinguish the terms 'patients' vs 'peers' on page 7. It said recruitment of patients and then switch the term to peers which can be confusing as they are the same people.
2. need to outline strategies you will adopt to improve 'retention' of patients (peers) and peer support facilitators, very challenging
3. what incentives were provided for the peer supporters? payment? as it is time consuming
4. what about the control group? nothing was mentioned in the pilot study? what did you do with them?
5. Were there any observable differences in the 1:1 vs group vs combined format? I see 1:1 peer support role having a rather different relationship to a PSF in a group, the dynamics are totally different and finally, what actually happens in a combined intervention, the PSF is available on a 1:1 and then also run a group? not quite clear.
6. The three intervention arms are complicated and one has to justify why would anyone offer to be a PSF having to deal with one’s own DM and to facilitate a group or offer 1:1 support. may be the occupation of the PSF is a confounding factor
7. will this peer support program be sustainable in the medium and long term? since it has not been sustained in a 2 month period.

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

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 that I have no competing interests'