Reviewer's report

**Title:** A Prospective Clinical Trial of Specialist Renal Nursing in the Primary Care Setting to Prevent Progression of Chronic Kidney: A Quality Improvement Report

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 4 July 2014

**Reviewer:** Patrick Moran

**Reviewer's report:**

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  The authors have done a good job of clearly setting out the limitations of the study design (see one further minor recommended revision below).

  The additional information on the statistical methods is useful, but I don’t have enough experience in the analysis of panel data to comment in detail on the suitability of the methods. However I am struck by the extremely low P values found for almost all outcomes and wonder if it is a true reflection of the overall trend for the cohort shown in the box and whisker plots (figures 2-5). I was surprised to see such narrow CI’s in Table 3 given the fact that there are only 52 patients (36 at 12 months), 5 time points and quite a degree of variability within the group. A more in-depth review of the statistical analysis may be warranted.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. Pg 7 line 4 : “In this study, we present the results of this intervention in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of this model of care.”

     Please reword to reflect the fact that the study design is not able to reliably demonstrate effectiveness.

  2. Pg 19 line 19/20 : “There is no study in the literature that can be used to determine effect size between with improved self-management and improved clinical outcomes.”

     Delete “with”

- Discretionary Revisions

  None

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

**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