Reviewer's report

Title: Influence of a multidisciplinary approach and intense follow-up on weight reduction in a primary care setting

Version: 1 Date: 30 July 2004

Reviewer: Judith Ashley

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
NONE

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Tables and Figure

a. For Table 1 and Table 2, please note whether the values are mean +/- standard deviation?
b. Labeling and explanation of Figure 1. The histogram category on the left indicates 5% and the one on the right indicates 5%-10% (overlapping categories). The text indicates that the histogram on the right reflects the percent in each group that lost 5% or more of their weight. If kept, please clarify the 5% category and the 5%-10% categories in the text and on the histogram. If you trying to tie this in with the statement "loss of 5-10%" in the Background section, a statement in the results would help.

Background

a. Orlistat. A brief explanation of the action of this medication and usual doses would be helpful for many readers.
b. Citing and referring to more than one (reference 20) intervention using primary physicians and the results would indicate a more complete review of related work in the literature.

Results

a. Include in the text that the lipid (not fatty acid) profiles are given only for the patients that had pre and post lipid profile analyses, which was for 121/225 (%) of the patients. Please explain why this percent of analyses done was so low if it was part of the study design?

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Tables and Figure

a. Table 1. It would be helpful to list the range of percent weight loss for the three groups, as well as the mean pounds lost.

Results

a. Suggest adding the number of patients (%) in group C that stopped, and the main reasons given.
b. In the Methods section, mention is made that fasting plasma glucose was measured. Suggest including these values and changes in the results text.
Discussion
a. Reference to "ordinary" physicians may be considered inappropriate by many readers; suggest using another term to distinguish them from family physicians.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

NONE