Reviewer's report

Title: Family practice nurses supporting self-management in older patients with osteoarthritis: a randomized trial

Version: 2 Date: 3 December 2007

Reviewer: Peter R Croft

Reviewer's report:

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> Please number your comments and divide them into
> - Major Compulsory Revisions

> The author must respond to these before a decision on publication can be reached. For example, additional necessary experiments or controls, statistical mistakes, errors in interpretation.

None

> - Minor Essential Revisions

> The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.

General editing of grammar needed

> - Discretionary Revisions

> These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

The authors have responded satisfactorily to the comments. My only remaining suggestion is that they should consider an explicit sentence in
the discussion that states something like
"Numbers were small and only powered to identify a large difference, and so there is a possibility of a type 2 error. If the trend in effects observed were confirmed in a larger trial, and if such small effects in a common problem such as OA proved to be worthwhile in the long-term, then the intervention might still eventually prove to be effective. However, it is clear from our results that the intervention did not achieve clear or substantial effects"
Then the authors' reasonable discussion of needing more intensive interventions or longer time periods can follow from this.

> Please note that both the comments entered here and answers to the questions below constitute the report, bearing your name, that will be forwarded to the authors and published on the site if the article is accepted.

> What next?
>  ----------

> Based on your assessment of the validity of the manuscript, what do you advise should be the next step?
> - Accept without revision
> - Accept after discretionary revisions (which the authors can choose to ignore) YES
> - Accept after minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)
> - Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions
> - Reject because scientifically unsound
> - Reject because too small an advance to publish (note that BMC Family Practice will publish all sound studies including sound negative studies)
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