Reviewer’s report

Title: Innovations in Behavioral Health Coaching Using Goal-Setting Strategies: The HOPE Pilot Study Case Report

Version: 2 Date: 12 April 2012

Reviewer: colleen doyle

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions

This is an interesting paper describing an intervention to treat depression in people with diabetes. The intervention is delivered by phone, by unqualified staff. Results from a small number of people are outlined in the paper. While the paper is well written, the issue of delivery by non-experts is not addressed sufficiently. What safety measures are put in place to ensure that misleading or inaccurate information is not provided to the clients? What suicide risk procedures are followed? The liaison with attending health professionals is not described in detail. The results for reduction in depression are impressive and in some ways slightly unbelievable, but that could be due to the very small numbers published. The paper would be better to be presented as a description of the intervention, and discussion of the pitfalls and advantages of using non-experts to deliver the coaching. The lack of a clinical trial or control group comparison needs to be emphasised more.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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