Reviewer’s report

Title: Medication management for primary care patients with dementia: a study protocol

Version: 3 Date: 3 July 2013

Reviewer: Elmar Graessel

Reviewer’s report:

Scientific relevance: Medication and its implications are very important aspects of dementia care at home.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods

The authors should clearly name who is interviewed and to which subject. I assume that the PWD is the primary interview partner (page 10: “adverse drug events according to self reports.”)

What is the role of the informal caregivers? What happens if there is no informal caregiver? What happens if the PWD is moderate to severe demented? How can they answer the questions in this case?

Now I answer to the questions of the editor:

1. Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?

The study is planned as a cluster-randomised controlled intervention study. The number of randomised GPs is missing. The power calculation is missing as well. The authors should describe the “difference” between medication management in the therapy group and the procedure in the control group exactly. It is not enough to state “Details of the study design have been described elsewhere” (page 7) or “The participants in the control group receive care as usual (the pharmacist does not receive a medication plan).” (page 8). A study hypothesis is not formulated. Six outcome measures are stated (page 16) but no primary outcome was defined.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?

Missing details see number 1.

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?

There is no mentioning of statistical analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions:

4. Is the writing acceptable?

Yes; I recommend a careful proofreading [e.g. “… pharmacist who the is asked
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.