Reviewer's report

Title: The Effects of an Integrated Care Intervention for the Frail Elderly on Informal Caregivers: A Quasi-Experimental Study

Version: 4 Date: 20 February 2014

Reviewer: Joanie Sims-Gould

Reviewer's report:

Overall this is a well written article on topic of great importance – integrated care and its effect on informal caregivers. This article helps to build a slim but growing body of literature which supports an integrated care approach. I offer several suggestions for improvement.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors list many limitations to the study. I would shorten this list to include the top three or four limitations and where possible discuss the others not as limitations but in the methods section or elsewhere where appropriate. With so many limitations listed it really detracts from the strength of the study.

For example, instead of discussing limitations of the intervention in the limitations I would add this content under the recommendations section. The lack of co-residency can be dealt with in the discussion – it is not so much a limitation of the study but rather a reality of who you enrolled. I would frame it that your study provides insight into the experience of non-co-resident caregivers but more research is required on co-resident caregivers. The issue of co-residency is likely related to spousal versus non-spousal caregiving, this is mentioned could appear more prominently in the discussion.

Minor Essential Revisions

On pages 15 and 16 the word ‘indeed’ is used several times at the beginning of a sentence. Please reduce the use of this word.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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