Reviewer’s report

Title: Safety and efficacy of a lifestyle intervention for pregnant women to prevent excessive maternal weight gain: A cluster-randomized controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 21 March 2013

Reviewer: Madelynne Arden

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have in general made a good job of addressing the reviewers comments and the manuscript is much improved as a result. I suggest a few minor revisions prior to publication.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. p.4 The paper states that the "…trial…to reduce GWG by consulting on:..." I Don't think this is the correct word. Do you mean counselling?

2. p4 towards the bottom of the page. "Eight gynecological practices agreed participating" should be agreed to participate...

3. p.5 The paper states that the structure of the counselling sessions ensured standardization. While the standardisation may have gone some way to reduce variations, without some analysis of the session contents this is not certain. Assuming that this did not happen the possibility of differences between counsellors remains and should be noted as a potential limitation.

4. p.7 The authors provide a reference for the 5kg weight retention criterion in the reply to reviewers but this is currently missing from the paper itself.

5. p.13 The discussed on the changes in physical activity during the pregnancy and between conditions is a little confused. It is not clear what differences are due to the large baseline differences and which are due to real changes and I therefore think that this paragraph should be reworded in order to explain this more clearly.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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