Reviewer’s report

Title: Enhancing return-to-work in cancer patients, development of an intervention and design of a randomised controlled trial

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Reviewer: Fehmidah Munir

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript outlines a study protocol for a return to work intervention for cancer patients following CONSORT guidelines. Return to work and work ability is an area of concern for cancer patients, their families and their employers. Currently there are no interventions that have addressed this issue. Therefore this are is of importance

The protocol is written extremely well with adequate hypotheses that can be tested with appropriate analyses. My only concern is that the manuscript does not contain enough information about the training content for the nurses and whether they have taken into account other factors that could affect return to work at follow-up and very long-term follow-up. For example, treatment type, psychological factors, psychosocial factors (e.g. number of dependents etc) organisational factors (e.g. economic climate, organisational climate, support) which can all impact on return to work outcomes. Naturally its difficult to measure all such variables and I am sure the authors have considered some of the key ones. These should be referred to in their sample size calculation (e.g. do they have enough participants to control for these effects?) and in their effect evaluation (e.g. other measures they will include and how they will treat them).

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

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