Reviewer's report

Title: Pragmatic controlled trial to prevent childhood obesity in maternity and child health care clinics: pregnancy and infant weight outcomes (The VACOPP Study)

Version: 2 Date: 19 March 2013

Reviewer: Everett Magann

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

Page 5, Intervention: The authors need to state how similar information was conveyed to the participants during the counseling sessions by the physiotherapist and dietician. Was there a written protocol used by all of the physiotherapists and dieticians? Additionally in the counseling sessions, how did the author ensure that the PHNs provided consistent information to the women across all sites?

Page 6, Intervention: Has the ‘get out of breath’ exercise been validated in any study to determine the level of exercise that is involved in that activity? Did the women just report that they ‘got out of breath’ or the number of times they ‘got out of breath’ or of the hours exercised how many of them they were ‘out of breath’? For example in table 2, physical exercise in h/week is that number of hours of ‘get out of breath exercise’ or is that just number of hour that the women considered that they exercised.

Page 8, Statistical method: it appears that the times of the control group 2008 and then the time of the intervention 2009-2010 were chosen for convenience. Was a sample size every done to determine the number of women that needed to be recruited to have a sufficient sample size to test the primary study outcome? If not, then was a post study power analysis undertaken to determine the strength of this study to answer the study outcomes

Figure 1: There needs to be some perspective on the women delivered in Vaasa. Overall how many women were delivered in Vaasa on 2008 and in 2009-2010? How many women met the eligibility criteria overall for this study, is the figure 1 correct that only a total of 267 women of all the women attending the maternity clinics met the study criteria in 2009 and only 232 in 2009-2010?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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