Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of family members' psycho-educational intervention on burden of caregivers and psychiatric symptoms of patients with schizophrenia in Shiraz, Southern of Iran

Version: 3 Date: 18 December 2011

Reviewer: Amanda Jones

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. Because many readers probably will not have this information, please add more information about the kinds of services already available to people with schizophrenia and their family members in Iran. You might also want to incorporate the Iranian focus more explicitly into the specific aims listed at the end of the introduction.

2. Please add more information about the intervention, how it was developed, and how it compares to other family-oriented interventions in the literature such as family psychoeducation or NAMI's Family-to-Family. Please also be clear about whether just the family members or the family members AND their associated patients participated in the experimental intervention. A subsection in the Methods just about the intervention might help with this.

3. In the Methods section, please include information on the population from which the sample was recruited and the recruitment methods. For example, there is mention of recruitment from 3 mental health centers, but nothing about the types of people served at those centers. Do they tend to be people who have been sick for a while? As for recruitment methods: how did the patients and/or their family members find out about the study? Did they answer advertisements? Were they approached by their treatment providers at the mental health centers?

4. There is mention of a needs assessment, but no information about what needs were assessed and how that needs assessment was incorporated (or not) into the intervention. Please clarify.

5. I had difficulty figuring out how the Results and Discussion mapped onto the specific aims at the end of the Introduction. Please reorganize to make this clearer.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

6. Please review the entire manuscript to ensure grammar is correct.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

7. If you have the information available, please incorporate into your participant description any information you have about how long the patients associated with
The family members had lived with their mental illnesses.

**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:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.