Reviewer's report

Title: The comparative effectiveness of Integrated treatment for Substance abuse and Partner violence (I-StoP) and substance abuse treatment alone: A randomized controlled trial

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Reviewer: Kate Walsh

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This study compared the effectiveness of two different treatments for partner violent patients: 1) an integrated substance abuse-partner violence treatment and 2) substance abuse treatment with only one session devoted to partner violence. Results indicated that both treatments were effective in reducing substance use and partner violence. However, because the integrated treatment is more expensive to implement, the study conclusions indicate that providers should use cognitive behavioral substance abuse treatment with one session addressing partner violence to reduce both substance abuse and partner violence. The manuscript is well-written and the authors should be commended for their attention and detailed responses to my previous comments. However, I have one remaining concern about the arbitrariness of the inclusion criterion of 7+ acts of physical violence in the past year. The manuscript now states that the goal of IPV treatment was to “break a pattern of IPV perpetration in an enduring relationship” and not to focus on patients “for whom IPV perpetration was an incident.” I agree that this is an important goal, but why not include patients with 2-3 incidents in the previous year? What is the clinical experience that informs this cutoff? While I do not think this limitation should prevent the manuscript from being published, a better empirical rationale is necessary for only including those with 7+ incidents in the previous year.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.