Reviewer's report

Title: Guided online treatment in routine mental health care: an observational study on uptake, drop-out and effects

Version: 3 Date: 18 June 2012

Reviewer: Gavin Andrews

Reviewer's report:

This is a clearly written paper as expected from VU. While the title makes it clear that this is not an RCT the results quickly talk about groups.. Could the results begin by reiterating the design which was a comparison of of the volunteers versus abstainers from PST over five weeks after which all got face to face therapy.

Second the authors should discuss the awful adherence rate. Cuijpers knows that we get 50-60% adherence to iCBT when used in primary care (see current Behaviour Research and Therapy) so some account of why would be of value.

Third as the average person only got to lesson 3 then the large effect size could be attributed to problem solving theory and no problem solving behaviour and again this needs to be discussed.

Fourth: most would expect that with an NNT of 2 PST should have made 25 people well and have no need for face to face therapy. Please discuss.

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'