Reviewer’s report

Title: Mothers’ AdvocateS In the Community (MOSAIC) - non-professional mentor support to reduce intimate partner violence and depression in mothers: a cluster randomised trial in primary care

Version: 1 Date: 29 September 2010

Reviewer: Sylvie Lo Fo Wong

Reviewer’s report:

This study belongs to the very few but promising trials regarding non-professional support for IPV in a difficult study population: victims, mothers remaining with the perpetrator. The trial has been set up possibly with too many primary outcomes at this early stage and outcomes (such as costs) that possibly only change in the long run. The main problem: underpowerd study, has been sufficiently discussed by the authors. Whether randomisation at the level of referred women would have shown more significant differences remains the most interesting question.

The authors’ final remark on what has to be done to enhance providers’ skills and willingness to refer, is understandable but surprising. This study did not primary focus on the enhancement of identification and referral, although they did quite some work on it. Further it was not meared clearly. No medical or other file review has been done to find out whether and how many missings occured.

I suggest that the authors re-evaluate this last sentence of the discussion.

Editing comments

Abstract should be written more clear, especially the mehodsection, provide only the figures that matter. The current numbers are somewhat confusing.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'