Reviewer's report

Title: The role of gender in a smoking cessation intervention: a cluster randomized clinical trial

Version: 1 Date: 22 October 2010

Reviewer: Joan R Villalbí

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. The content of the intervention and the usual care received by the reference group need to be well explained. The intervention group seems to receive a structured and systematic intervention, while the comparison group supposedly receives ‘usual care’, which may consist (or not) in brief advice for smokers (specially if they have smoking-related conditions) but may also include pharmacological treatment to quit. This seems somewhat inconsistent, as these treatments are not usually covered by the NHS in Spain. The authors need to explain better what happens to smokers in the comparison group.

2. The results must include proper presentation of quitting results. The authors state that the intervention was useful and then go on to gender comparisons. The major outcome is quitting, and it must be presented (ie in table 2) and discussed before attention is paid to comparisons by gender. If this major outcome is being published elsewhere, this reviewer would be concerned with the originality of the results.

3. In an international journal, the knowledge of some aspects of how publicly funded primary health care is organised in the NHS in Spain cannot be taken for granted. The authors need to change the UBA concept into a more general concept such as ‘family physician or nurse’ all through the paper and in figure 1.

4. Other than that, there are some serious English language issues to be addressed (for instance ‘related diseases’ and not ‘associated pathology’...).

Minor essential revisions
Other minor issues to solve include the lack of a reference to the Prochaska model used all through the paper, the missing link to the report in reference 8, Fagerström and Richmond test scores in tables should be reported similarly (and as ‘scores’. Perhaps reference 11 could be changed or completed making reference to papers discussing this issue as it changed such as Med Clin (Barc) 2002;118(3):81-5 and Med Clin (Barc) 2009;132(11):414-9.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.