Reviewer's report

Title: Weight Watchers on prescription: An observational study of weight change among adults referred to Weight Watchers by the NHS

Version: 2 Date: 26 April 2011

Reviewer: Theo Vos

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I maintain that short term outcomes of a weight loss program is not necessarily associated with what you call 'clinical benefit'. As the only evidence available indicates weight loss, on average, is quickly regained, you ought to be more restrained in your conclusions about health benefits.

From some searching on the web, I find that the GBP45 is the cost to the NHS. The Weight Watchers website indicates a cost of a 12-week program that would be about double that amount (http://www.weightwatchers.co.uk/help/index.aspx?Pageld=1076942). I asked explicitly if there were any co-payments but did not get a reply.

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