Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of using group visit model to support diabetes patient self-management in rural communities of Shanghai: a randomized controlled trial

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Reviewer: Masuma Akter Khanam

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Effectiveness of using group visit model to support diabetes patient self-management in rural communities of Shanghai: a randomized controlled trial

General comments:
This manuscript is about a current concern, very timely and well written. Some revision will improve the manuscript.

Specific comments:
Background
2nd paragraph, 4th sentence:
Please provide reference.

Methodology
Recruitment and randomization
2nd line: 'They were contacted by a recruitment letter describing the diabetes group visit intervention as a “new community diabetes care service provided by the community health centre”’ where participant would “learn how to self-manage their diabetes in a group led by a general practice team every month in the community”

This must have created some bias for the controls. The controls must have looked for the group activities. Please clarify this.

2nd paragraph: 4th sentence: ‘Neither the participants nor the members of the……..were blinded to treatment assignment.’ This requires further clarification.

8th sentence: “Control group members received usual care’. ‘Usual care” needs to be explained. How the control group differs from the intervention group in terms of receiving the program? Control group taking the same intervention but one to one basis (vs 20-25 persons group in intervention group), or control group received same intervention but from a single provider rather than a group of 3, GP team. It is not clear from the methodology.

Data collection and statistical analysis
How the self efficacy was measured? As the reference article is in Chinese, definition or little description of the measure would enrich the manuscript.
Conclusion
The two first lines of the two paragraphs are identical, says same thing. The authors may wish to merge the conclusion to one paragraph.