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

Version: 3 Date: 8 September 2012

Reviewer: Patrick McGowan

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revision

1 - Intervention group members made action plans for a one-month period. This "one month period of time" needs explanation and needs references where it has worked elsewhere. Usually action plans are for a much shorter period (i.e., one week).

2 - The second person helping delivery of the group visit did follow-up with members to support them in achieving their action plans. When did this follow-up take place - after 1, 2, 3 or 4 weeks?

3 - Follow-up is a major challenge in self-management and this information is extremely important and should be highlighted.

4 - The 60 minute period after the visit could include "behavioral counseling." This needs to be explained - mainly because the self-management intervention is also considered a behavioral change intervention.

5 - The article reads quite well and the authors should be commended for their efforts. However, there are a few instances where the "tense" needs to be examined.

6 - As well, prepositions are missing - e.g., in the Discussion Section, 4th paragraph, "Firstly, the patients actually participated in the study were significantly older..... Should read "Firstly, the patients who actually participated in the study..... The authors can address this.... and it would certainly improve the clarity of the article.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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