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: 5 Date: 16 October 2012

Reviewer: Patrick McGowan

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Clarification is required regarding the frequency that participants made action plans. In the section Topics of the group self-management education, the sentence reads: “Action plans are designed for one week in lay-led self-management education programs, but this strategy was modified for each participant to make a weekly action plan for one month (four weeks) in this study.” This needs further clarification:

a) Does it mean that in the three month study (12 weeks) that weekly action plan took place for only one month; or

b) Did participants make weekly action plans for the whole 12 weeks as suggested in the section entitled Implementation of the Chinese diabetes group visit program?

The second concern is the clarification of what took place in the 60 minute one-on-one visit with the health provider at the end of the group session. It indicates “further self-management support”. Again, this needs clarification. As well, how many of these subjects in the experimental group received this additional one-hour intervention?

These are important questions in that people wishing to replicate the intervention will need this specific information.

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.