Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening and brief intervention for alcohol problems in Dr George Mukhari Hospital out-patients in Gauteng, South Africa: a single-blinded randomized controlled trial protocol

Version: 1 Date: 26 January 2012

Reviewer: Morten Hesse

Reviewer’s report:

Major revision:
The authors should give a thorough justification for the primary outcome variable used to evaluate the intervention. The Cochrane review from 2007 analysed grams of alcohol as the outcome variable. There may be good reasons for using drinking days instead, but these should be stated.

Minor revisions:
The authors should screen their manuscript for redundant statements. Examples include that the unit of randomization is the individual, that patients with probable alcohol dependence were referred for further management, etc.

A clinical point: What will be done with pregnant at-risk drinkers?

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.