Reviewer's report

Title: Community Pharmacists Role in Obesity Treatment in Kuwait: A cross-sectional Study

Version: 2 Date: 21 August 2012

Reviewer: Janet Krska

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. While the abstract has been revised it does not stand alone, explaining the setting, what was done and drawing conclusions from the results presented there. It therefore needs substantial further revision as follows, then the author needs to ensure it fits the required word count:
   - Include mention of Kuwait in abstract Background
   - Include distribution method and explanation of how Likert scales were analysed in method. (see later comment)
   - Remove reference to 'strategies to overcome barriers' from abstract Background and methods, as no results are presented on this.
   - Remove mention of 'correlation' from the abstract Discussion or include the finding in results.
   - Remove reference to similarities and differences between Kuwait and developed countries or include mention of developed countries in the abstract Background.

2. The authors have attempted to explain the sample size calculation, but this not the issue. The point is that there is no logic to the underlying assumption that there would be any difference between male and female pharmacists in any outcome. Furthermore the authors have failed to specify the outcome they used for the calculation. Hence the sample size calculation is still not appropriate in my view.

3. The authors have used a 5-point Likert scale, which is of course categorical data. They have then assigned numbers to each category, in order to use parametric statistics on the resultant data. This is itself is questionable, but they also have not stated what these numbers were anywhere in the script. Hence the reader is left to try and work out for themselves that scores ranges from 1 to 5, but what scored 1 and what scored 5?

4. The authors state they have used correlational analysis to assess the relationship between counselling frequency and perceived effectiveness/confidence. They do not state what method they have used. Given that the data are categorical, they should use Spearman’s r and this should be stated.

Discretionary revisions
1. The conclusion is improved, but I think it would also be enhance further by referring back to the (to me, astonishing, but true) figure of 80% of women being overweight/obese, hence the greater need for pharmacist involvement in helping to tackle this problem in Kuwait, than in many other developed countries where it is already happening. This is I think what the Conclusion in the abstract needs to say as well.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.