Reviewer's report

Title: A community pharmacy weight management programme: an evaluation of effectiveness.

Version: 4 Date: 27 November 2012

Reviewer: Alison Booth

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study with important outcomes. I have made a few discretionary comments and suggestions that will strengthen the paper.

Background:
1. Page 4, 2nd para, last line – please explain in more detail the reasoning behind this (reporting % patients achieving clinically significant weight loss) – this needs more explanation and justification.
2. Page 4, 1st para, line 4-5 – either reference this statement or use other, evidence-based data.
3. P4 para 2 - systematic review – please give further explanation of this finding.
4. Page 5, it states that the previous Counterweight program resulted in weight loss in 14% of patients – please clarify that this was also not compared to a control group.
5. Re-word the second sentence on page 4 for clarity

Methods
6. It is not clear why you are measuring smoking and diabetes status. If you include this, please clarify. Also include a description of how you assessed smoking and diabetes status.
7. Para 2 1st line – this is confusing in the current context, it may need to be re-worded.
8. Should explain in the methods why there is no control group
9. Statistical methods - BOCF and LOCF "are biased" - please provide more information here.

Results
10. Add ‘s’ to ‘patient’ at the end of the sentence “smoking was reported in…”
11. While I understand what you mean, I think the term “due to attend” may be confusing for some readers (i.e. if they were “due to attend”, it assumes they did not attend so how do you know their weight?).

Discussion
12. The findings indicate that the program can be successful in losing 5% of body weight for 10% of patients. These findings are compared to other pharmacy-based weight loss interventions which have similar findings. However, how does this compare to other community weight loss programs (not in a pharmacy environment)? I think this is important considering no control group was used.

13. Please discuss a lack of a control group as a limitation.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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