Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 4 December 2012

Reviewer: Jessica Grieger

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory revisions.

Introduction:
This paper aims to assess weight change among patients using a pre-established weight management program, delivered by community pharmacies. Although there has been some previous research to base this work on, the introduction has poorly defined the extent of this research and the description of the different interventions was not clear. Particularly when referring to references 10 and 11, a better description of these studies is necessary to clearly define the basis of the current research. This will also enhance the way in which the current project builds on previous knowledge and how it fills gaps from those studies.

Methods:
Please describe why, of the 18 pharmacies interested, only 16 were approached. Why is smoking status reported as “unknown”? Please clarify if this means it was not declared/reported.

Results:
Is there any information on the dietary intakes of the participants and the number of people who achieved a 600kcal/d energy deficit? Did this impact weight loss results?
Why do you think some individuals gained weight?
It is interesting that there was less attendance among those with higher BMI. Can you comment on this in the discussion?

Discussion:
Appropriate strengths and limitations reported but would be useful to describe what other clinical parameters a decrease in 5% body weight would also achieve. E.g. a decrease in blood pressure, lipids etc.

Minor revisions.
Overall: Some grammatical errors throughout and a revision of the paper for clarity is needed.
Methods:
Please state 3-10000 people as 3000-10000 people for clarity.
Is calibrating body weight scales annually sufficient?
Please describe what the age and BMI categories were in the statistics section.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests