Reviewer's report

Title: Cost effectiveness of a multi-stage return to work program for workers on sick leave due to low back pain, design of a trial.

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Reviewer: Kim K. Burton

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This is a well described protocol of a complex, but very interesting RCT. Please check MS for typos (a fair number) and occasional strange English/grammar (few). Could you make it clear if the costs you are estimating are all costs or just related to LBP. I appreciate it is too early for a full, numbered CONSORT flow diagram, but (since recruitment finished in Oct 2001) you should be able to put some numbers into Figure 1.

Competing interests:

None declared.