Reviewer's report

**Title:** The feasibility of a single-blinded fast-track pragmatic randomised controlled trial of a complex intervention for breathlessness in advanced disease.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 April 2009

**Reviewer:** Scott Murray

**Reviewer's report:**

1. The question posed by the authors is well defined
2. The methods are appropriate and well described and carried out very carefully
3. The data are sound and clearly presented, including missing data issues
4. The manuscript adheres to all the relevant standards for the reporting of this study, including trial registration and consort chart
5. The discussion and conclusions are balanced and insightful.
6. Study limitations clearly defined, as is the originality of the combination
7. The authors clearly acknowledge their previous publications about this programme of work, and also the work of others
8. The title and abstract are as clear as possible, although a bit of a mouthful!
9. The writing is excellent, and the references up to date.

No major or minor essential revisions

Discretionary revision: clarify that on p17 the independent research team's letterhead included the phrase "palliative care" if indeed it did.

**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'