Reviewer’s report

Title: The use of complementary medicine by two community groups of women with polycystic ovary syndrome.

Version: 5 Date: 3 November 2014

Reviewer: Lisa Moran

Reviewer’s report:

I am generally happy with this manuscript and only have a number of additional comments listed below.

Major compulsory revisions
The focus of this study was complementary medicines in addition to lifestyle intervention (dietary and exercise practices) rather than as an alternative. The prevalence, patterns of use, treatment aims and perceptions of effectiveness for dietary and exercise intervention reported by the same sample of women with PCOS will be presented in a separate manuscript.

If this is the case then I would like to see the introduction and discussion refocused on this as the primary rationale of the study. Line 12-28 in the introduction do not mention lifestyle/dietary or exercise therapies at all and focus solely on CM and this seems to be addressed briefly in the discussion only in lines 244-250.

Minor essential revisions
Point 8: Line 120: Proportions are listed for the most common reasons to use CM products and included reasons such as ‘to treat PCOS symptoms and infertility’ or ‘to treat PCOS and reduce depression’. Where PCOS symptoms/infertility or PCOS symptoms/depression classified as one category together? Can the proportions be provided separately eg for 1: Treating PCOS symptoms, 2: Treating infertility, 3: Treating depression etc.

The results are still presented for PCOS symptom and fertility or PCOS symptoms and depression. This is still unclear to me, are the results for 1: PCOS symptoms, 2: Infertility and 3: Depression available or not due to questionnaire design.

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

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