Reviewer's report

Title: Is informed consent related to success in exercise and diet intervention as evaluated at 12 months? DR’s EXTRA study

Version: 3 Date: 12 March 2010

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

Reviewer's report:

For the most part, the feedback on the previous reviewer comments has been handled appropriately except for a couple of issues that will be raised here.

1. Page 8 paragraph 2: The authors should comment on whether or not any of the differences that were checked here would be clinically important between the drop outs and those that did not drop out? It is not adequate just to check for statistical significance.

2. Page 9 paragraph 1 line 3: Put a space between “#” and “0.1”.

3. Page 9 paragraph 1: The sentences should show that these are additive models and no interactions were fitted between the variables.

4. Page 10 paragraph 1 line 2: Since 1% of the subjects felt their health was extremely poor this reviewer would suggest that they should combine the extremely poor and poor categories, so it is not to have the instability showing in the additional tables, when it is necessary to do the fitting. There the overall impact of the variables was dramatically significant, while the individual components were not, in table 2 in particular, but only slightly in table 1 of the additional information.

5. Page 12 paragraph 2 line 3: Drop “in order” in front of “to”, as the words are redundant in English.

6. Page 16 table 1: for age, should put “years” after it.

7. Page 17 and 18: Since personal opinion of subject’s own health comes into these models, the p values that are related to these should make sure that the models do converge in the software. This variable appears to have problems in the additional table. It does not show up in tables 2 and 3 directly but it may have an impact on the final conclusions.

8. Page 19: There is no description here of the model fit. They should include the fact that no interactions between variables were included in these models.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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