Reviewer's report

Title: A Targeted Decision Aid for the Elderly to Decide Whether to Undergo Colorectal Cancer Screening: Development and Results of an Uncontrolled Trial

Version: 2 Date: 3 June 2010

Reviewer: Kerry Kilbridge

Reviewer's report:

Overall comments –
This is a thoughtful and well-written study addressing an important clinical issue. The investigators describe the development and initial testing of a decision support tool to help adults age 75 or older decide whether or not to be screened for colorectal cancer. They consider both the literacy and co-morbidities of their study population in their analysis, important characteristics that are frequently disregarded or unreported.

Minor essential revisions –
1. If no corrections were made for multiple statistical comparisons in Table 3, it should probably be stated explicitly in the Data Analysis section.

2. Regarding the reporting of the Primary Outcome in the Uncontrolled Trial Outcomes Section - It is unclear how the proportion of the respondents who reached the values subscale was combined with the proportion of the respondents who reached the threshold for adequate knowledge. To be counted as “prepared to make an individualized decision” does a respondent have to have at least 10 out of 15 questions correct AND score < 25 on the values clarity subscale of the decisional conflict instrument?

3. The second sentence in the Secondary Outcomes section should read, “At baseline, four percent of the respondents responded “to” knowledge questions correctly compared to 52% of the respondents after exposure to the decision aid (p<0.01).”

4. The fifth sentence in the 6th paragraph of the Discussion section should read, “A randomized controlled trial…..” rather than “a randomized control trial…”

Discretionary revisions –
5. Although they are provided in Table 1, it may be helpful to add the numbers of respondents with each characteristic to the first column of Table 3.

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 would like to declare a low level competing interest in the field of shared decision making and decision support. I am a medical editor and consultant for the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making (FIMDM). FIMDM is a non-profit organization that supports research and policy efforts behind patients getting the information they need to make sound decisions about their health.