Reviewer's report

Title: Shared Decision Making for Prostate Cancer Screening: The Results of a Combined Analysis of Two Practice-Based Randomized Controlled Trials

Version: 3 Date: 3 October 2012

Reviewer: Steven B Zeliadt

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The one additional comment that I have is that the authors make a bold statement about their intervention not changing participation in shared decision making, implying that patients are not making shared decisions, and that the intervention did not change this. They note there was no difference between the attention control arm and the intervention arm in the Denger Control Preferences Scale. However, this does not necessarily mean men are not participating equally with their doctor or not participating at levels at which they desire and feel comfortable. In table 4, the authors report that in the intervention 74% (28/38) reported shared decision making on this scale, and 71% (27/38) reported participating at their preferred level. In the control group is was 76% (39/51) reporting making a shared decision, and same number reporting participating at their preferred level. The conclusion: “However, it is difficult to help men participate equally with their doctor, or, at least, at a level at which they desire and feel comfortable.” does not seem warranted and should be removed from the discussion.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.