Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Provision of relapse prevention interventions in UK NHS Stop Smoking Services

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 18 February 2010

**Reviewer:** Lindsay Stead

**Reviewer’s report:**

This paper reports the results of a questionnaire survey with a relatively low response rate. However there is no indication that this is a cause of major bias. My main comment is that I needed to refer to the earlier qualitative paper to understand what the questions, and responses, meant. The background could benefit from more detail from the earlier paper. For example, clarify the distinction between relapse prevention and lapse prevention. When an SSS endorsed use of NRT for RPI, would this imply extending the period of therapy for all users, or after individual assessment or relapse risk, or after lapse? It might also be helpful to clarify in the background what the NHS SSS policy/policies are for providing pharma, ie normal period of therapy and policy on retreatment.

**Discretionary revisions**

1. p.1 ‘Cochrane reviews …’ – there is only one Cochrane RP review, no need to cite earlier version.
2. p. 1 Why does consistent? have a ?? ‘clear’ might be better than ‘consistent’
3. p.1. Suggest rewording sentence starting ‘Our review’ to: Our review found that for individuals who had stopped smoking unaided, RP using behavioural self help interventions was effective at long term follow-up
4. p.6. Did 2 services really not recommend NRT, or was this missing data?
5. p.7. When NRT or other pharma was endorsed as RPI, can this be taken to mean extending an initial period of therapy?
6. p.8. It would seem useful to explicitly distinguish between proportion of providers likely to continue with RPI and proportion of non providers likely to start, even if those proportions are similar

**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 am an author of the Cochrane review on relapse prevention interventions cited in this paper and have discussed other parts of the project to which this work relates with the authors.