Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of linking community health centers to a state-level smoker's quitline on rates of cessation assistance

Version: 2  Date: 3 December 2009

Reviewer: Johan Buffels

Reviewer’s report:

This study describes the effect on rates of provider cessation assistance when establishing a link between a centralised fax referral system and clinicians working in community health centers in New York. It is in general well written.

The research question is correctly posed. The methods are described in detail and are sound. In the section presenting the data, I did not find any table with the numbers (%) of smokers having received screening, advice, assessment, medication and referral at baseline and at follow-up. To my opinion the data mentioned in the text are too concise, since these results are the core of this paper.

In the discussion section it is correctly mentioned that supportive infrastructure and training seem to be essential for a sustained implementation of working with interactive quitlines. It should be emphasized that the intervention was composed of several components facilitating this interaction between clinicians and the centralized quitline.

Minor essential revision:
Please create a table with the results as described above.

Discretionary revision:
I would appreciate if the authors could comment on the significant difference of the study population in readiness to quit at baseline and at follow-up.

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.