Reviewer's report

Title: A successful chronic care program in Al Ain-United Arab Emirates.

Version: 4 Date: 19 November 2009

Reviewer: Ross Bailie

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Results: reference to an ‘alarming situation’ – specify why/how it was alarming and in relation to what standard.

The issue of sustainability is still not adequately addressed. It is clear from the data that the improvements in some key measures were not sustained over time, but this is not adequately acknowledged or discussed in the discussion section.

The limitations of the study methods are not adequately acknowledged. Specifically the limitations of the validity of the measures with respect to describing changes over time should be addressed. Specific issues in this regard include different participating health centres at different time intervals and differences in sampling methods and numbers of client records at different time intervals.

Minor Essential Revisions

First paragraph of discussion should not repeat information in the background methods but should rather focus on summarising the key findings in relation to the project objectives.

There are still multiple typographical errors, many relating to punctuation, but also other relating to tense and singular / plural. The tables also contain typographical errors (notably table 1).

The abbreviation HbA1c appears in at least two different incorrect forms.

Pg ? ‘advice’ should be ‘device’.

The numbering of tables should be in the order in which they are referenced in the text.

Table 3 – abbreviations should be clarified and it should be made clear that the data in the ‘totals’ columns refer to %.

Table footnotes should be presented in a standard form.

Table 5 – what does ‘5/7’ mean? This should be made clear – tables should be self explanatory.

Table 6 – What do p values of 0.0 refer to? These figures should be ‘<0.01’ or ‘<0.001’. Use standard numbers of decimal places for p values.
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests