Reviewer’s report

Title: Improvement of primary care for patients with chronic heart failure: a pilot study.

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2009

Reviewer: Kathleen Bennett

Reviewer’s report:

This is a pilot feasibility study on a very small study population in one part of the Netherlands. There are several flaws to this study:

Major revisions
1. It is not clear what outcomes measures are being examined. Essentially a before and after design, no control group to compare against.
2. Is the information from this study new and original? The literature review was limited and it is not clear what this adds to the literature.
3. Small study, no sample size, no statistical tests perform – lacks scientific rigour.
4. When did the study take place? Was the sample GPS representative? Of those participating was the sample representative of non-participating GPs?
5. The intervention was very vague and not well controlled, so GPs may have interpreted the intervention in different ways. For example, was there only one researcher who went out to the practices?
6. The statistical methods are inadequate/non-existent.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.