Reviewer’s report

Title: Exploring reasons for non-participation and withdrawal from a randomised controlled trial of telehealth and telecare in England: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 16 April 2012

Reviewer: WALTER PALMAS

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

It is pointed out that 36.7% of 9214 subjects did not enter the trial. Have those subjects been described (at least in regards to their basic demographics) elsewhere? This should be addressed.

In addition, was any subject offered participation in an interview and refused it?

The investigators state that they aimed for maximum variety in ethnicity in their sample, but ethnicity is not described in Table 1.

It is unclear to this reviewer how information from Observational Visits was used: “Field notes were made of observational visits and explored thematically alongside interview data.”

It is also unclear to this reviewer how saturation was evaluated: “we ensured that we continued to follow-up willing participants until we reached saturation in the data analysis”.

Minor Essential Revisions

Spell out the abbreviations for health conditions in table 1.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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