Reviewer's report

Title: The short-term effect on alliance and satisfaction of using patient feedback scales in mental health out-patient treatment. A randomised controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 29 June 2012

Reviewer: Carla A. Green

Reviewer's report:

This paper present preliminary information that may be useful as a spur to future research. Weaknesses are detailed below.

Discretionary Revisions

1) The introduction is thorough and comprehensive but long. Consolidating this section to some extent could be helpful. The authors also use passive voice—converting to active voice, although not essential, would improve readability.

Minor Essential Revisions

2) In the Methods section, it appears that therapists self-selected to participate in the intervention rather than being randomly assigned to intervention vs. control. This is a potential weakness that should be discussed.

3) General information regarding patients’ diagnoses is presented. More specific information would help the readers understand the target population.

4) The authors use “coping” as a synonym for “activation,” when activation refers to a much broader constellation of attitudes and behaviors than is implied by coping. Self-efficacy is more closely related to activation than is coping.

5) The authors use the term “quality of life” to refer to the SF-12 measures, which are more accurately described as “health-related quality of life”—a more narrowly defined concept.

6) It is not clear why demographic data were collected for only 40% of non-participating patients. If these data are not available, a more complete explanation of why they were not collected would be helpful.

7) Minor English-language errors are present occasionally in the manuscript. A careful editing would address these problems.

Major Compulsory Revisions

8) Measures were translated and back-translated but no information is presented about the psychometric properties of the translated instruments. Such information might be very helpful in interpreting results.
**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 that I have no competing interests.