Reviewer's report

Title: A study protocol: a community pharmacy-based intervention for improving the management of sleep disorders in the community settings

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2012

Reviewer: Martin Duerden

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This is an interesting study protocol.
To answer specific questions:

1) Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?
I have doubts. The problem is that it confuses two study questions 1. Can actigraphy be used to objectively measure sleep disorders and interventions to improve sleep. 2. Can community pharmacy effectively manage sleep disorders in the community. I think it would be better to test these hypotheses separately. I also have reservations in that sleep disorders are highly heterogeneous and the study would do better looking at a specific type - for example initial insomnia, which is very common. The study does not clearly provide definitions of the different types of sleep disorders and lumps them together.

2) Are sufficient details provided to allow replication?
Yes - it does provide sufficient detail to allow repetition of the study.

3) Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
Can't tell but I suspect not. In particular it requires analysis at several time points - which may not be adequately tested. I very much doubt that in view of the variability at baseline caused by heterogeneity of sleep disorders it will be adequately powered - despite the power calculations. I find it hard to understand how 25 patients in each group would be adequate to demonstrate differences, if they exist. I also don't think the two weeks of follow up is adequate to demonstrate a clinical relevant change - which would need to be sustained for longer to be clinically important. I also wonder if the control group should be given a dummy wrist band to wear?

4) Is the writing acceptable?
The study protocol is clearly written.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.