Reviewer's report

Title: The MRC Trial of Assessment and Management of Older People in the community: objectives, design and interventions

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Reviewer: Dr Leslie Huson

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This is an interesting report of a well designed and important trial. I have only two comments to make on the statistical aspects of the manuscript, one textual, and the other requesting clarification of the selection of the practices involved in the study.

1) Textual: the formula printed on page 8 of the manuscript needs attention to clarify that the values "1/2" are exponents: in the manuscript they appear as multipliers.

2) The formula cited on page 8 of the manuscript is derived by Shipley et. al. on the assumption of matched pairing: the manuscript does not make say if such matching has been done for the practices that are being recruited into the study. The authors should clarify this, and, if the practices are not matched before randomisation, should comment on how the formula they cite is affected by lack of matching.

Competing interests:

None declared.