Reviewer's report

Title: Nurse clinic versus home delivery of evidence-based community leg ulcer care: A randomized health services trial

Version: 2 Date: 18 September 2008

Reviewer: Nicky Cullum

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REVISED MANUSCRIPT: Nurse clinic versus home delivery of evidence based community leg ulcer care: a randomized health services trial

Date: 18/09/08

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REVIEWER'S REPORT:

Major compulsory revisions:

1. Blinded photographs mentioned for the first time in the Discussion but not in the methods

Clarification of how outcomes were captured is now provided on page 8 but there is still no mention of the blinded adjudication of photographs which is first mentioned in the Discussion on page 15. This still needs adding to the methods and is an essential revision still required.

2. Detail regarding resource use data and lack of economic evaluation

More clarification provided; I think the response is satisfactory.

3. More Discussion of why this study design was chosen and why no economic evaluation; more comparison with existing evidence.

More clarification provided; I think the response is satisfactory.

Minor Essential Revisions (Dr Jull):

4. More information on the HRQoL instrument

I found what was added on pages 8 – 9 confusing with respect to the SF-12. The authors introduce the SF-12 on page 8 – stating that the SF-12 is what they used. They then go on to discuss the SF-36 in some depth – implying that they decided to use that; they then go on to say they used the SF-12 after all – but they had already told us this. I think this long paragraph could be greatly simplified whilst retaining the important detail.

Discretionary (Dr Jull):
5. Unnecessary to report differences between groups at baseline

The authors have chosen to disregard this and it was discretionary but Dr Jull is correct – the only point in doing significance tests on baseline variables is if you suspect that randomisation was subverted, since if randomisation was properly executed, by definition any significant differences in baseline variables have occurred by chance – and this is only what a significance test tells you anyway (the probability that a difference of that size occurred by chance). The significance test doesn’t tell you if there were important differences (since adjusted analyses for even non-significant baseline differences can have important effects on results).

**Level of interest**: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.