Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Factors Contributing to Attrition Behavior in Diabetes Self-management Programs: A Mixed Method Approach

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 26 June 2007

**Reviewer:** Timothy C Skinner

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is an innovative and important piece of research. Attrition is a major problem in research trials and routine care that has a major negative impact on both the effectiveness and cost of health care.

In diabetes, I have not seen any similar study that has attempted to address this issue, and the simplicity of the research study is its strength.

I would make a few small suggestions, based on questions that came up for me as I read the paper.

In the introduction, the authors should be aware that there is a meta-analysis and meta-regression by Ellis and colleagues (2004 in Patient Education and Counselling I think) that identifies other predictors of the effectiveness of DSME.

I would like to see a more information about the Behavioral Model of Health Service Utilization in the introduction and the model discussed in more depth in the discussion.

In the method I am not sure on the definition of attrition, as it fails to consider the possibility that assessment leads to an individual not needing any additional education etc… So I would like to see more thought on how this definition may have affected the results in the discussion.

How was number of diabetes related symptoms assessed?

In the results, giving average income in $ is not much help, can it be clarified whether this is Canadian or US, and for non American readers, how does this salary compare to the national mean, may help the international reader put this into context.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after discretionary revisions

**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