Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 13 September 2007

Reviewer: Martha M Funnell

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a well-designed and well-written study.
The theoretical framework is very applicable and helps to put the information into a useful context.
Tables likewise very helpful.
The literature review is comprehensive and appropriate.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Because of differences in how health systems are structured to provide diabetes education, this appears primarily applicable to the Canadian health care system. Some discussion of how it might relate to other health systems, particularly those of the readership, is needed.

Finding education useful was discussed briefly near the end of the discussion section. This is an important issue that needs further exploration. Please discuss how the education is provided and what attempts are made to ensure that it is patient-centered, culturally appropriate (other than language) and limits didactic methodologies. For example, we found that in a problem-based program with no lectures, the mean attendance was 5.2 sessions out of 6 in an urban, inner-city population. The idea of changing the methods or system used to deliver education also needs to be discussed in the recommendations.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Given the amount of work and expense of collecting data from this many patients, why was just one question asked? It seems like a missed opportunity to learn what patients perceive they want and need, which would potentially decrease attrition rates. Please clarify.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The issue of being embarrassed to return is a clue that perhaps the education is
perceived as judgemental, rather than designed to help patients solve problems. Please relate to how the education is provided, as noted above.

**What next?**: Accept after minor essential 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 have no competing interests.