Reviewer’s report

Title: Reducing Occupational Stress with a B-Vitamin Focussed Intervention: A Randomized Clinical Trial - Study Protocol

Version: 1 Date: 12 October 2014

Reviewer: Natalie Parletta

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and important study that will yield some interesting data. However, the manuscript needs some careful proofreading and polishing up. The structure could be tightened up and flow improved, e.g., would benefit from reviewing general mechanisms of vitamin B before going in to specific mechanisms related to workplace stress, then a review of research that has been done so far, highlighting weaknesses/gaps that will be addressed in the proposed study. Sentence structure and minor grammatical details also need to be polished up, with some examples further below.

Methodology
The methodology would benefit from more explicit aims, with methods and measures clearly linked to those aims.

The methods state that workers who report feeling stressed will be recruited but this is not clear in the abstract. Will target sample size recruited allow for dropouts? – particularly important given that ANOVAs are proposed to analyse outcomes, which do not factor in missing data (NB linear mixed modelling is a better method for factoring in missing data).

Page 12 states that participants are screened for eligibility on their first visit whilst the flow chart states that they will be screened on the phone (preferable to making them come in fasted before eligibility determined!)

Minor (examples)
Page 4 typo: ‘to make a stress-related workcover claims’
‘This data’ should be ‘these data’
Page 5 first para, last sentence – more effective than what?
Page 6 clumsy sentence in first para ‘The duration of…. [11]’; also second to last sentence on same page.
Last sentence page 7 – what is meant by ‘high vitamin B deficiency’?
Page 9 sentence doesn’t make sense ‘Therefore treatment with B12 for any of these symptoms will often be alleviated’
Page 11, participants – should that be 28 or 14 standard drinks for men and women respectively?

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
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