Reviewer's report

Title: Protocol for the Proactive or Reactive Telephone Smoking CeSsation Support (PORTSSS) Trial

Version: 2  Date: 13 February 2009

Reviewer: lawrence friedman

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Page 2, Abstract, line 4 from bottom: The total sample size should be 2576.

Page 5, line 3: Most of the time, “NHSSS” is used. I am unclear why it is “NHS SSS” here.

Page 5, line 7: Most of the time “proactive” is used. Here, and in one or two other places, it is “pro-active.” It should be consistent.

Pages 8 and 9: There seem to be a great many secondary outcomes (more than usual). In any publication, if statistical tests are used, the large number might be noted.

Page 11, lines 6-8 and page 13, lines 6-8: These seem to be somewhat contradictory, with one allowing patients to withdraw use of their data and the other not allowing it.

Pages 13 and 14, Informed Consent: In the third bullet, “to” might come after “agree”; in the fourth and fifth bullets, “to” might be deleted since it is used before the bullets.

Page 16, second paragraph, line 7: It should be “data that are exported …”

Page 17, lines 1 and 3: The reference numbers are reversed.

Page 24, Table 1, last column, last row: The total should be 2576.

Page 25, lines 3 and 8 from bottom: The number should be 2576.

Page 31, reference 3: Each author is listed twice.