Reviewer’s report

Title: A Systematic Review of Techniques and Inteventions for Improving Adherence to Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria During Enrolment into Randomised Controlled Trials

Version: 1 Date: 5 January 2010

Reviewer: David Moher

Reviewer’s report:

On page 4, Primary literature search – did the authors have an information specialist helping them?

The authors should include as an appendix a search strategy from one of the main searches they completed (e.g., Medline).

Did the authors have their search strategy peer reviewed (Sampson M, McGowan J, Cogo E, Grimshaw J, Moher D, Lefebvre C. An Evidence-Based Practice Guideline for the Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies (PRESS) was developed. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology. 2009;62:944-52)?

Page 5. How many content experts did the authors contact?

Page 5. The authors are silent on whether, a priori, they were going to perform any assessment of the rigor of the primary studies and if so how this was to be conducted?

Page 5. The authors should provide some description of the data items they were planning on extracting.

In the figure of the paper the authors report not including any studies. In the text they report including one. This needs to be resolved – one should appear in the figure.

Reference 24 is out of date.