Reviewer's report

Title: Rationale and design: telephone-delivered behavioral skills interventions for blacks with type 2 diabetes

Version: 1 Date: 2 March 2010

Reviewer: David Moher

Reviewer's report:

This protocol is very clearly reported – the authors are to be congratulated. I have a few minor points I’d like the authors to address:

Abstract
How about replacing “Blacks (African Americans)” with “African Americans” and “Whites” with “American Whites”.

Please delete “prospective” in the abstract and everywhere in the body of the text (e.g., page 6). By their design, randomized trials are prospective.

Do the authors want to state the % change in the primary outcome (as stated on page 16).

Body of manuscript
On page 8 (and everywhere else in the manuscript) please replace “subjects” with “participants”.

On page 10 I’d like to try and better organize the reporting of the interventions. How about using 4 headings corresponding to the interventions and within each heading group the specific interventions for that group – merging the information on pages 10-14– perhaps this is an easier read. Also, I’d like the authors to submit all of the intervention documents (e.g., as reported on page 11) as these can be included on the Journal’s website. My goal is to get as close to what Glasziou and colleagues recommend when reporting information about interventions (Glasziou P, Meats E, Heneghan C, Shepperd S. What is missing from descriptions of treatment in trials and reviews? BMJ 2008;336:1472–1474).

Quality of written English: Acceptable