Reviewer's report

Title: Overview of the Consortium of Hospitals Advancing Research on Tobacco (CHART)

Version: 2 Date: 5 December 2011

Reviewer: Michael C Fiore

Reviewer's report:

Overall Comments:

This manuscript is well written and adds important information to the field. Because of the pending (1/1/12) Joint Commission performance measure on the treatment of tobacco dependence in hospitalized smokers, the outcomes of this NIH research program will be particularly important. Few collaborations have endeavored to coordinate data collection across a series of related studies at different Centers with different protocols. As a result, this collaboration will produce novel data on more than 10,000 smokers admitted to hospital. Moreover, as mentioned in the discussion, it is an excellent example designing for dissemination.

Specific Comments:

1. Add page numbers – lack of page numbers makes it more difficult to provide feedback

2. Background, second paragraph – The last sentence regarding the Joint Commission are somewhat dated. I would urge that sentence to be edited to read, “Given the clear positive impacts of smoking cessation services provided during and following hospitalization, the Joint Commission recently updated its performance measures to include the in-hospital and post-discharge provision of smoking cessation counseling and medications to all patients effective 1/1/12.”

3. Methods/Design, second paragraph – There is a sentence mid-paragraph that is unclear to me, “Some include only the usual care pharmacologic interventions…” It may be unclear to the reader what usual care pharmacologic intervention vs. augmented.

4. Methods/Design, third paragraph – First sentence is unclear. “Although mode of delivery, timing and content of the interventions vary across projects, the common goal of all these interventions is to capitalize on the abstinence required by the hospitalization and the potential motivation of a smoking-attributable hospital to continue abstinence post-discharge.” Bold, italicized phrase is unclear.

5. I want to comment your common inclusion measure of “any smoking in the 30 days prior to a hospital admission” and your common outcome measure of
“self-reported 30 day point-prevalence abstinence at the six month follow-up[ as the primary outcome” I agree with both.

6. Table 1 – fourth column, second row – typo – post-discharge is spelled incorrectly.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have not relevant competing interests over the last five years to report.