Reviewer's report

Title: Dissemination of the nurse-administered Tobacco Tactics intervention versus usual care in six Trinity community hospitals

Version: 2 Date: 15 February 2012

Reviewer: Kelvin Choi

Reviewer's report:

I appreciate the authors' effort in responding to my previous suggestions. I have a few more questions with the new information provided. Hope you can address them.

Major compulsory revisions

1. When dealing with participants not responding to the mail survey, the authors suggested on P.10 that they would offer them the opportunity to complete the survey by phone. Knowing the discrepancy in the reliability and validity between mail survey and phone survey, and the potential of over-reporting and under-reporting behavioral in either one of the methods, I am concerned that why the authors would offer to complete the survey over the phone with majority of the participants completing it by mail. Please address this issue.

2. Would you be able to provided data to support that collecting specimens for cotinine test during follow-up is feasible? What specimens you are going to collect? Will the participants need to come in to the clinic? And if so, those who have hard time responding to the mail survey are even less likely to provide the specimen.

3. With the revised Table 1, I understand the design of the study better. My question is, which doesn't seem to be addressed in the proposal, how is the pre-intervention quit rate going to be determine? You showed three observations in Table 1. And then with the intervention being 2-6 months long, how long is the full implementation before the post-intervention surveys? And will the post-intervention quit rate be determined? Will that be at the same time of the year as the pre-intervention surveys? If not, how are you going to control for seasonal effect of quitting?

Discretionary revisions

1. I appreciate the explanation on why a true randomization is not preferred in this case. I believe readers will be interested in knowing the rationales behind your decision too.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

None.