Reviewer's report

Title: Using Novel Canadian Resources to Improve Medication Reconciliation at Discharge: A Cluster Randomized Trial

Version: 3 Date: 18 March 2012

Reviewer: Nicholas Moore

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting methodology paper for a randomized cluster trial of a computerized system to retrieve patients’ hospital and out-of-hospital (private practice) medication prescriptions or medication lists, to make sure all persons involved known what is prescribed.

There are two aspects: one is purely methodological, and there is nothing much to say about what is a relatively classical method of cluster randomization for non-blindable intervention, with blinded adjudication of adverse events.

the other is the study's background hypothesis, that most adverse drug reactions are related to a mismatch in knowledge of what has been prescribed to a patient.

This is an interesting hypothesis, but I'm afraid the authors might be in for some disappointment here. But then it would be nice to know.

A) no major issues except for the basic premise, but that is of no concern here except that the authors might introduce some degree of moderation ("among the many factors involved in avoidable drug reactions, misunderstanding or incomplete information about actual medication history or drug use in hospital or out of hospital might be a contributing factor...

there are many other factors such as prescriber incompetence in the choice of drugs or doses and duration, misdiagnoses, patient non-compliance (over or undercompliance), in addition to genetic variations in drug metabolism or activity.

minor comments
b) the pages are not numbered

c) in biases and blinding the authors mention treatment assignment, which does not seem appropriate here, and is probably from another protocol...

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
no competing interests