Reviewer's report

**Title:** Protocol for a randomized controlled trial to study the efficacy of a brief intervention to reduce alcohol misuse in patients with HIV in South Africa.

**Version:** 5 **Date:** 18 September 2012

**Reviewer:** John Norrie

**Reviewer's report:**

I have now reviewed the authors responses to the review and can confirm that the authors have responded comprehensively to the queries. The only one I hesitated over was the reworked sample size query, with a technical concern that although they had said they were assuming a 12% reduction from 12 to a mean of 10.6 on the primary outcome AUDIT score, they hadn’t actually stated explicitly the assumed standard deviation common to both randomised groups. However, on reflection, the small number of people that might be interested can back calculate this from the rest of the calculation details, so happy to let it go. Therefore I can confirm that all the changes they have made are appropriate and hence the revised paper is good for an Accept.