Reviewer's report

Title: Information on blinding in registered records of clinical trials

Version: 1 Date: 27 August 2012

Reviewer: Asbjorn Hrobjartsson

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well-written research letter that conveys important information.

I have the following comments for discretionary revisions:

1) I suggest that the five possible groups of people that can be blinded in a trial (page 5) are defined/characterised. For example, the exact distinction between “data collectors” and “outcome adjudicators” is often problematic.

2) Table 1 is constructed by introducing a sixth notion “investigator” (considered synonymous to data collectors). How would the table look like after ignoring information on “investigator”?

3) Often outcome assessor is only relevant to report if outcomes are observer-reported. Is it possible to present the table split according to whether the trials (or a random sample of the trials, for example 20%) involved observer-reported outcomes.

4) I would find it interesting to read the authors reflections on the possibility of their sample of trials (reporting both a global blinding term and the blinding status of a specific key trial person) not being representative of trials in general.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests'