Reviewer’s report

Title: Intervention description is not enough: evidence from an in-depth multiple case-study on the untold role and impact of context in RCTs of 7 Complex Interventions.

Version: 3 Date: 2 February 2012

Reviewer: Gina Browne

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to read this very informative paper.

1. This is an original and rigorous qualitative case study that identifies the ways in which context may challenge the central tenants of the randomized controlled trial study designs to evaluate complex interventions and the degree to which this information is known to researchers and subsequently reported.

2. The methods are appropriate, well described with sufficient detail to replicate the work.

3. The qualitative data were tape recorded and analyzed using standard software.

4. The manuscript adheres to and also exceeds the standards for reporting qualitative studies.

5. The discussion and conclusions are balanced, supported by the data and really quite informative.

6. The title and abstract convey what was done and found.

7. The writing is acceptable. The analytic detail is quite commendable.

I consent to having this signed reported posted on the website, and along with the article and other reviewers’ report.

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

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 I have no competing interests.