Reviewer's report

Title: A self-management program for employees with complaints of the arm, shoulder and/or neck (CANS): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.

Version: 3 Date: 25 June 2013

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

Reviewer's report:

The answers provided by the authors appear to have corrected the issues raised in the previous review. After reading the revised paper there were a few things that could make it better.

New issues in revised paper.

1. Page 1, line 2. Rewrite title as [...neck or shoulder (CANS)....]. This leaves the locations on the body in line with the short form. Also [or] includes [and] so [and/] is redundant.

2. Page 2, Trial registration. Include date of registration and date of first patient randomized in 2012. Make sure date format is understandable.

3. Page 2, Key Words. The short forms RSI and RCT are not in the list on P 18.

4. Page 3, paragraph 2, line 2. Replace [ranges] by [varies], twice.

5. Page 3, line 1. Replace [significant] by [important] or some other word that conveys content knowledge and not a statistical interpretation.

6. Page 4, line 1. Delete [in order] in front of [to] as the words are redundant in English.

7. Page 6, line 3. Insert a space to read [< 8].

8. Page 6, line 5. Delete [and/]. Also Page 7, line 5. Also Page 27, Suspicion, line 5.


10. Page 10, line 5. Delete [an is].

11. Page 13, line 3. There are no R(ference)s to these measures. Is this because you made them up and they have not been validated or checked for reliability? If so, state it.

12. Page 13, line 4. Replace [±] by [about].

13. Page 14, line 2. Replace [moments] by [times].

14. Page 15, line 2. Include how the data will be managed as well the software that will be used for analysis.

15. Page 16, line 3. Since confounding by indication does not happen in RCTs, do you want to consider another strength?

16. Page 16, line 6. Delete space to read [... groups;...].

17. Page 19, R 6, line 2. Rewrite [Aplied] as [Applied] and insert a location for the
publisher, as well what appears to be the language [(Dutch)].

18. P 19, R 9 is incomplete.

19. P 19, R 14 AND 17. Include [(Dutch)] on the last line if that is the language.

20. P 20, R 36 is incomplete and should likely have [(Dutch)] on the last line if that is the language. Also P 20, R 40.

21. P 20, R 40 and 42. R format does not use periods consistent with the rest of the Rs. Also P 21, R 59. Also P 22, R 76 and 78.

22. P 21, R 51 is incomplete.


24. P 21, R 55. Include date of last access.

25. P 22, R 673 uses title twice and the initials with periods is not consistent. On l 2, insert [CA] after [Alto].

26. P 22, R 76, l 2. Include [(Dutch)] if that is the language.

27. P 25, l 14. Should the [n] be deleted to read [alteration]?

28. P 26. Suggest including the CONSORT R as part of how this should be reported.