Reviewer’s report

Title: Preventing and Lessening Exacerbations of Asthma in School-age children Associated with a New Term (PLEASANT): Study protocol for a cluster randomised control trial

Version: 4 Date: 28 May 2013

Reviewer: Charlie Goldsmith

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This protocol has been well done; however, there are too few references to some of the methods and there are still some suggestions that could lead to improvement of this protocol.

1. P(age) 3, p(aragraph) 6, l(ine) 1. Include the date of registration and how many GPs of the 140 have agreed to participate as of the current date.
2. P 5, p 1, l 2. Insert space on either side of [<] twice.
3. P 5, p 3, l 2. Since [or] logically includes [and], drop [and/]. Also P 13, p 3, l 2.
4. P 5, p 4, l 4. Delete one [.] after [year].
5. P 5, p 5, l 3. Do you have a source for the estimate of 100?
6. P 6, p 4, l 1 and 2. Insert [years] after [16] and [5]. On l 2, insert a space between [<] and [5].
7. P 7, p 2, l 1. What is the source of the practice sizes for stratification?
8. P 7, p 2, l 6. Suggest including the 1:1 allocation ratio and how the randomization will actually be conducted with what software.
10. P 8, p 3. Suggest including a possible draft letter with the components identified.
11. P 8, p 4, l 2. Define [w/c] since this is not in the list on P 14.
12. P 8, p 6, l 1. Suggest replacing [time points] by [times].
13. P 8, p 8, l 1. Delete [being].
14. P 9, p 2, l 5. Why is 5% a MCID?
15. P 9, p 2, l 5 and 6. Is there a source for the estimates of 12 and 11%?
16. P 9, p 2, l 10. What software was used to derive these estimates?
17. P 9, p 3, l 4. Add a [.] at the end.
18. P 9, p 4, l 4. Insert [.] after [0.03].
19. P 10, p 1 Provide R(eference)s to the statistical methods used here and the software for these analyzes.
21. P 10, p 4, l 2. How will the QALYs be determined and assigned to the children in each group?

22. P 11, p 1, l 6 and 7. Provide a R.

23. P 11, p 3. Provide Rs for these methods.


25. P 12, p 1, l 1. Provide a R for the SOPs.


27. P 12, p 4, l 3. Provide a R.

28. P 13, p 4. Provide a R.

29. P 13, p 6. Provide a R.

30. P 16, R 7 and 10. Delete the [.] after the initials.

31. P 16, R 12. Trials likes to include the first 30 authors before use of [et al].

32. P 16 ff, R 15, 21, 25, 26, 27. Include date of last access.

33. P 16, R 16. Include the location.

34. P 17, R 23 and 24. Take the date from l 1 and put after the journal title.

35. Figure 1. Explain what the line represents. Is it a smoother of some type?