Reviewer's report

Title: Self-Management in aged care settings: a design for a cluster randomised controlled trial of a psychosocial intervention to improve social participation and autonomy among seniors with a dual sensory impairment

Version: 3 Date: 30 July 2013

Reviewer: José Carlos Millán-Calenti

Reviewer's report:

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The authors present the design of a cluster randomised controlled trial of a psychosocial intervention to improve participation and autonomy among seniors with sensory impairment.

The article is easy for reading and well explained; besides this, the idea is interesting in order to improve the quality of life of elderly people who live in home care centres. However there are some considerations that they should correct before accepting it.

Major Compulsory Revisions

TITLE
Although the title includes the adjective “psychological” regarding intervention, when they explain the hypothesis they don’t include anything about the term “Psychological”. This “mistake” needs to be clarified.

ABSTRACT
The section called Methods should read Methods/design according to Authors’ Instructions.

The section called “discussion” is very poor. They should improve it.

STUDY SAMPLE
They should also define the term “severe cognitive problems” better and their proposal in order to measure this situation.

INTERVENTION
As the study aims to assess the possibility of seniors carrying out normal activities to sustain social participation (role management) and, of course, daily activities, the authors should have also assessed the seniors’ functional ability.

Minor Essential Revisions

KEYWORDS
They use too many keywords, some of them without interest. I think they can eliminate the words “licensed practical nurse” and perhaps “senior” because they use “aged care”.

STUDY DESIGN
The authors should explain the reason why they linked a licensed practical nurse to each participant DSI-senior and why they have not included other professionals who are within the staff of the aged care setting such as social workers, psychologists and specifically nursing assistants who are the closest professionals to seniors in this type of centres.

Discretionary Revision

STUDY SAMPLE
The authors should study the possibility to include the nursing assistant with the support of nurses instead of only nurses.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.