Reviewer's report

Title: Study on Psychoeducation Enhancing Results of Adherence in Schizophrenia (SPERA-S): Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 5 Date: 11 February 2013

Reviewer: Sally Chan

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for inviting me to review this paper. This paper describes a protocol in assessing the effectiveness of FPP and GT. The study is original. The findings should be able to contribute to the knowledge on family caregiving for people with schizophrenia. There are sufficient details provided for replication of the work. However, I have questions on the interventions and outcome measures. The following is my comments:

1. It would be better if the authors could provide detailed information on the objectives of FPP and GT. From table, 2, it appears that FPP is more focused on problem solving and GT is more focused on information provision. How could the two be compared?

2. The outcome measures focused on patient outcomes and very few focused on the family members. What are the relationships between the objectives of the programs and the outcome measures?

3. There is a heavy focus on medication adherence in the outcome measures but the interventions are not specifically focus on medication adherence. Could the authors clarify the reason for doing so?

4. There is also measure on expressed emotion but I could not see expressed emotion in the content of both interventions. Please clarify.

5. The study will recruit patients from 10 units. Are the 10 units having similar routine treatment and interventions for patients? How to ensure consistence?

6. Who will conduct the interventions and assessment? How to ensure consistence.

Recommendation: Major compulsory revision.

Please address all my questions.