Reviewer's report

Title: QUALZICE: A QUALitative exploration of the experiences of the participants from the ZICE clinical trial (metastatic breast cancer) receiving intravenous or oral bisphosphonates

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2013

Reviewer: Lydia Bird

Reviewer's report:

Unfortunately in my opinion this manuscript fails to engage with the issues around trials (particularly of more complex interventions) and does not provide anything particularly new. I felt that the results section was highly descriptive and that it failed to provide anything particularly relevant to anyone beyond those running a trial of these exact treatments or certainly very similar ones. For example I felt that excess detail was provided about the nature of participants side effects (more relevant to a paper looking at the result of the trial). Yet important factors such as the inability to blind participants to randomisation result in trials of this nature were not mentioned. I would argue that the discussion section did not engage with the wider literature on this topic. For example how did these finding compare with the conclusion of Cox 2000 (Enhancing cancer clinical trial management: recommendations from a qualitative study of trial participants' experiences). The recommendations are not particularly novel and some of them do not have particularly wide application (for example the dental card – a good idea but not relevant to a wide audience).

Level of interest: Reject as not of sufficient priority to merit publishing in this journal

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 that I have no competing interests