Reviewer's report

Title: Comprehensive Traditional Chinese Medical Rehabilitation for the Management of Knee Osteoarthritis in Community Health Centre: Study Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 5 Date: 17 September 2013

Reviewer: Melainie Cameron

Reviewer's report:

Overall concerns

I am concerned about the value of publishing this protocol at this stage. Recruitment for this trial is almost complete, and there seems little to gain from opening the protocol to public review at this stage. I wonder whether there might not be more value in asking the authors to withhold this manuscript and publish a first report when some early data are available.

The trial appears to be of pragmatic design, reflective of TCM practice. As such, doses of some interventions are likely to vary between participants, so conclusions regarding the effects of any discrete part of the treatment program may be impossible.

Minor amendments

Please specify which non-parametric test will be used for statistical analysis.
Please specify which measure of effect size will be used.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.