Reviewer’s report

Title: Intervention to reduce excessive alcohol consumption & improve co-morbid outcomes in hypertensive or depressed primary care patients: two parallel randomised feasibility trials

Version: 1 Date: 12 January 2014

Reviewer: Lawrence Mbuagbaw

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. The title should be revised. The word “improve” should be deleted from the first line.
2. Provide more structure to the abstract. See CONSORT for abstracts.
3. No feasibility targets are described. For example, how many participants/centres would you need to consider trial feasible or to achieve the required statistical power for the pilot itself or the full trial?
4. Randomization as described in the manuscript seems to have been done to allocate four interventions. From the flow chart it is clear this is not the case. This should be clarified.
5. It is unclear why centres were randomized to hypertension or depression trial. What purpose did this serve?
6. In the second wave of recruitment no further centres were included in the hypertension trial because “recruitment targets were met”. These targets are not reported. Are they individual patient targets or cluster targets.
7. Comparing the AUDIT scores in both trials was not mentioned as one of the trial objectives.
8. Tables 1 and 2 are poorly designed. Ideally if the columns are categories the rows can be statistics or vice versa. See table 1: Column 1 and row 1 are both mean and n. This is unclear.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Describe statistical tests used to compare respondents.
2. The abstract is not written clearly. Revise the first sentence and the description of the population of interest.
3. The abstract doesn’t state who or what was randomized.
4. Page 7: point a: was it a specific tool or any tool used to access alcohol consumption?
5. Abbreviate standard deviation in upper case: SD
6. Some medians are reported without ranges.
Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)
1. Address minor typos
2. Manuscript can be more focused and shorter.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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