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: 2
Date: 28 March 2014

Reviewer: Jinhui Ma

Reviewer’s report:

The revised manuscript is much clearer than the first version. All my previous comments were addressed. I noticed the author added more information to the manuscript based on the comments from other reviewers.

I have some suggestions regarding the newly added information.

First, usually it is not necessary to conduct a formal sample size calculation for the pilot or feasibility studies. However, if calculated, the sample size should be large enough ensuring the objectives of this feasibility study can be achieved. The author should discuss or justify the sample size on Page 13 from this respect.

Second, information regarding sample size was also added to the Discussion section. I can’t understand what the meaning is for adding this information. Usually the criteria of the feasibility (such as recruitment rate of 80%) should be justified based on the sample size that should/can be achieved in real practice for the full scaled future trial. If feasibility is proved in this pilot study, there is no need to discuss the sample size calculation issues in the manuscript reporting the results from the pilot study. I suggest the authors re-organize this part and move it to the Sample size section on Page 13 for providing justification on why the criteria of the feasibility are defined that way.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests