Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of drug reconciliation at discharge and communication between hospital and community pharmacists on drug-related problems: study protocol for a cluster randomized cross-over trial

Version: 3 Date: 28 May 2014

Reviewer: Erik Cobo

Reviewer's report:

I read the cluster cross-over trial paper from Dr. Xavier Pourrat et al. about drug reconciliation at discharge, and I think it is very well designed. It deserves publication in Trials.

Nevertheless, I would like to make some comments to the authors in order to help them to improve study replication and potential impact as well as to clarify their dissemination policy.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Please provide details about your dissemination policy, such as those suggested in SPIRIT item 31.

Please conciliate your sentences about blinding on page 7, line 12 (blinded rater committee) and on page 8, line 2 to the end of page (fully open).

Your main variable specified in page 7 is a sum of potential severities for each DRP, but your sample size rationale hypothesizes a difference from .45 to .60 in the DRP proportions. Please clarify.

In both discussion sections you specify that “It will allow for identifying the type of patients in France for which the intervention is most relevant”. Please, either remove it or state variables and methods for this objective as well as its nature (secondary? exploratory?)

- Minor essential Revisions

In order to improve potential replication and impact, please consider if the CONSORT extension for non-pharmacological interventions as well as the TIDIER and SPIRIT guidelines can provide useful insights.

- Discretionary revisions

Please, review your sentences in page 10 “This study will investigate an the effect of HP…” and “Patients in the intervention group the need to spend only…”

Please, consider changing in page 10, “and not a short mean length of stay (average from 5 to 11)” to “and a mean length of stay from 5 to 11”.

My best wishes for the next phases of your meritorious work.

Erik Cobo
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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