Reviewer's report

Title: Sepsis Survivors Monitoring and Coordination in Outpatient Health Care (SMOOTH) - Study Protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 3 Date: 22 April 2014

Reviewer: Jacques Lacroix

Reviewer's report:

REVIEW # 2

Manuscript entitled “Sepsis survivors monitoring and coordination in outpatient health care (SMOOTH) — study protocol for a randomized controlled trial” by Konrad Schmidt et al.

Submitted to the journal “TRIALS”
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MAJOR COMPULSARY REVISIONS
The authors took into consideration all comments that we made.

• The point on “cross-overs” was misunderstood by the authors: we were not talking about cross-over RCT, but about enrolled patients who were allocated to one arm and who switch to the other arm of the trial. However, the authors explain in their response that only one patient will be attributed to one GP. Thus there is probably no risk of cross-over patients, and no further response is required here.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS (not for publication).

Background.
• I do not understand the following sentence: “At least, sepsis sequelae are considered to be generic for symptoms after critical illness in general 13], which is of even more clinical and socioeconomic relevance”.

Methods.
• Section “Sample Size”, 2nd line: I do not understand what is meant by “Cohen’s d = 1.35 = 0.97”. Also, please define T1 and T2 here.
• Section “Outcome measures”, 1st and 2nd lines: “months” rather than “month”.

References.
Please, embed the references in the main document of the manuscript. The references must be formatted according to the editorial standards of the journal TRIALS.
• Reference 46. – Something is wrong (Doc07) in this reference.
DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS.
None.

REVIEWER
NAME: Jacques Lacroix, professor
Department of Pediatrics
Université de Montréal

MAILING ADDRESS:
Dr Jacques Lacroix
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
Sainte-Justine Hospital, room 3431
3175 Côte Sainte-Catherine
Montréal (Québec)
Canada H3T 1C5
Telephone: (514) 345-4931 extension 5556
FAX: (514) 345-7731
E-mail: jacques_lacroix@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.