Reviewer's report

Title: Recruitment results among families contacted for an obesity prevention intervention: the OPT for Health Study

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2014

Reviewer: Wendy Robertson

Reviewer's report:

The study offers an interesting analysis of recruitment into an obesity prevention intervention from members of the Kaiser Permanente health plan. As the authors say, the strength is the extent of the data they have on participants and non-participants. It is a well written paper, albeit not the most exciting paper that will come from this study.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
1. A main findings is that only 7.6% were recruited and randomised, yet this isn’t stated clearly. Instead, the paper states 16.1% were Acceptors, regardless of whether they were recruited or not. A different expression of the main recruitment result is also offered in the discussion (i.e. Of the 2123 families able to reach, 17% were randomised), which is probably not helpful. A bit more consistency is needed.

2. In the results section the % of females in the brackets (60% and 59% v 48% and 45%, respectively) could be laid our more clearly.

Discretionary Revisions
3. The discussion could be expanded with implications for prevention of childhood obesity i.e.

(a) With only 7.6% of the target population recruited, is primary health care the best setting for prevention? The majority of prevention studies are carried out in the school setting perhaps with good reason. However, I support the need to involve the parents.

(b) The higher uptake amongst parents whose children were overweight / obese maybe suggests that the 18 week intervention offered is perhaps more geared towards the treatment of childhood overweight/obesity.

(c) Are the results it generalisable to populations outside the KPSC health plan?

4. The authors could refer to other research that has examined recruitment and
recruitment methods e.g. active vs passive recruitment.

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

**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.