Reviewer's report

Title: ICONS: Identifying Continence OptioNs after Stroke: findings from a cluster randomised controlled feasibility trial

Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2014

Reviewer: Sandy Middleton

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-designed feasibility trial and well written. This is an area of great significance in stroke clinical care and an area which is often neglected. The full trial is badly needed to inform EB nursing care. Small revisions only requested.

Major Revisions

• Please clarify in abstract and main document that feasibility outcomes about retention (referred to retention of participants in trial) as opposed to urinary retention.
• Is quality of life and death the one outcome? If not please add a comma after “quality of life”.
• Page 6: As the randomisation is done by Newcastle Clinical Trial Unit, it would be helpful to say that they were independent of the research team.
• Page 7: Please clarify if senior research fellow and consultant nurse (external facilitators) went together or individually to sites. Does “ward manager” mean ward nursing manager? Would you please clarify and given an indication of the seniority of this role (ie. nursing unit manager or nurse manager) to make it more clearly translatable to international roles.
• Page 10: Statistical analysis – for the 12 weeks outcome, will you please indicate the length of time as you did for the 6 weeks.
• Page 12 (paragraph 2 and 4): Please delete “real” - ie. “there was no real suggestion....”

Minor Essential Revisions

• Page 13 – discussion: Might the large numbers of non-strokes who ended up on the stroke units also be due to individual hospital policy which compels staff to admit ‘possible’ strokes or non-strokes?
• Figure 1: Please clarify that the “6 and 12” refer to weeks at the end.

Discretionary Revisions

• In background or discussion, the authors might like to add an additional reference supporting the need for their trial:
Which is a national survey in Australia also demonstrating the crucial need for this research and its international relevance.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 am on a current grant under consideration with Caroline Watkins but have no previous collaborations with her or her team, or these authors.