Reviewer's report

Title: Tailored implementation for chronic diseases (TICD): A protocol for process evaluation in five cluster randomized controlled trials in five European countries

Version: 2 Date: 1 October 2013

Reviewer: Aleksandra Gilis-Januszewska

Reviewer's report:

Overall Manuscript Rating (1-100): 75

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

A manuscript “Tailored implementation for chronic diseases (TICD): A protocol for process evaluation in five cluster randomized controlled trials in five European countries”, is an article following the structure of a methodology paper. This manuscript is proposed as a part of the series of manuscripts from the European project “Tailored implementation in chronic illness care” It describes in clear manner the protocol for the process evaluation in five cluster randomized controlled trials to improve healthcare delivery in five different chronic diseases. It is explained well how the process of evaluation across the trials will identify determinants of change in chronic conditions care, validate the method that were applied and how to study association between the implementation activities and effectiveness of the TICD.

The question posed by the authors are new, very important and well defined. The manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

The title and abstract accurately convey what the article is about. In the Abstract there is clear explanation of the background, methodology used, expected results and discussion.

In the “Background” the Authors give a brief summary of what “tailored intervention” are and the history of the barriers of previous evaluations of the complex interventions.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details
provided to replicate the work?

In the “Method” the overall five phases approach in the TICD was described. The methods are detailed, well described and appropriate.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

In the Results the Authors described logic models, data collection and analysis, a survey to document implementation activities. The manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.

Figures and tables are clear except for the table 3. This is unclear to whom the key questions in this table are addressed.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

In the discussion it is cleared that the planned study will help to understand the determinants of change in chronic diseases and improve the tailoring of implementation programs.

7. Is the writing acceptable?

The writing is good.

Minor essential:

In the title of the table 3., it is unclear to whom the key questions in this table are addressed.

I would suggest to add to the title of this table this explanation.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests' below.