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: 25 October 2013

Reviewer: Ulrike Rothe

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) First, please, change your structure of a methodology paper once more into: Background (with the research questions) – Methods/Designs – Discussion (remove the chapter results). Please, write the pages 4-6 under the heading “Methods/Designs”.

And, please, restructure your paper better. Thus, add the research questions 1-4 on pages 5 and 6 to the questions 1-4 at the end of the chapter “Background” and harmonize these research questions and avoid redundancy, respectively. Renumber the research questions biunique and then use the same numbers under the heading “Data analysis” (p. 5) and describe your methods to answer these questions, e.g. “In order to answer the research questions 1 and 2 we used a descriptive analysis……” and so on.

2) Furthermore, under the heading “data collection”, please, number consecutively the three main items for process evaluation with I, II and III (or A, B, C, respectively) and use these numbers also for the following headings like “Ia) A survey on perceived change of…..” and Ib) A survey……and so on.

3) One question: Do you really want to prepare a quantitative meta-analysis because of the obvious differences between the outcome of the different trials? How do you justify your assumption that a pooling of data/outcome will be possible? Do you want to standardize the outcome data, won’t you?

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