Reviewer's report

Title: Educational Outreach to General Practitioners Reduces Childrens Asthma Symptoms A Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial

Version: 1 Date: 29 January 2007

Reviewer: Charlie Homer

Reviewer's report:

General

The article is important and well written. The methodology is strong, using the community based sample for identification of children and the cluster randomization of practices.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

My major concern is the measure that is used to assess symptoms. The authors have not described any validation of this measure or comparison to other scales and measures developed to assess symptoms. The recall period for the symptoms appears quite long, and exceeds that described as reliable (2-4 weeks). Because the measure is used for both intervention and comparison, the impact would be non-differential and bias the study towards the null--mitigating these concerns.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Explaining why the long delay occurred between data collection and publication, and whether the context has changed sufficiently to affect these findings.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.