Reviewer's report

Title: Educational Outreach to General Practitioners Reduces Children's Asthma Symptoms: A Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial

Version: 1 Date: 26 February 2007

Reviewer: David Wyatt Johnson

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a very well-designed cluster controlled trial set in an impoverished township in South Africa. Outcomes are assessed by using standardized questionnaires of asthma severity. The separation between how the children are recruited (through the schools) and the implementation of the guidelines (through private practitioners) is optimal in terms of minimizing bias.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   The question posed by the authors is new with respect to its focus on KT in an impoverished African setting, and the use of children with asthma identified through surveys distributed through schools. The KT instrument used (academic detailing) and the

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

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   Yes

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

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

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes

7. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes
   This manuscript is very well-written and clear.

I have no suggestions for revision

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

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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)

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.