Reviewer's report

Title: A Systematic Review of the Use of Financial Incentives to Encourage Uptake of Healthy Behaviours: protocol.

Version: 3 Date: 28 June 2012

Reviewer: Federico Augustovski

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

As the authors are including different type of study designs, explain - describe the analytical methods that will be used (all designs together, RCTs vs. quasi experimental designs) and if results from different study designs will be summarized-combined.

Regarding the word "Financial Incentives"
- Though economists probably understand that incentives can be both positive and negative (disincentives), the general readership may not, and this study clearly incorporates both positive and negative incentives. It would be good to find a word, specially in the title, to use in the paper, that clearly confers the notion of both incentives and disincentives/penalties
- page 7. Too vague a sentence "systematic procedures will be used…" refine
- page 8. Why English only title and abstracts? Do the databases require an English title/abstract? At least it would be good to see how many non-english papers were excluded in the flowchart. I guess there will not be much but it is interesting information of it can be stated. Otherwise state as limitation.
- page 11. Cochrane risk of bias tool is not cited, but is mainly designed for RCTs. Specify if using EPOC group adaptation of this tool, which also includes non RCT designs.

Minor Essential Revisions

- page 11. Reference 21 is a risk of bias tool for nursing studies. Reconsider its use or justify it.

Discretionary revisions

- Page 3 and 9. why exclude younger than 18 years (what happens if parents are stimulated to alter their childs behavior? Or a program aimed to the youth?)
clarify / justify.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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:**

No competing interests.