Reviewer’s report

Title: The use of the cluster randomised crossover design in clinical trials: protocol for a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 30 June 2014

Reviewer: Oliver Kuss

Reviewer’s report:

Arnup et al. submitted a well-thought and well-written protocol for conducting a systematic Review on Cluster randomised crossover Trial. I have only two points on which I would like to see the authors react on.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The authors write that they will not contact trialists to get additional information on the studies. I do not understand why. I have learned from the systematic reviews in which I was involved that this is always a valuable source of information that one does want to have included.

2. I feel the authors should not restrict their search strategy to only "cluster"-randomized trials. For example, one of the most important textbooks in the field (Murray, 1998) names them "group-randomized", and so I think the authors should also look for any kind of "group-randomized" trials.

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.