Reviewer's report

Title: Patient education for chronic heart failure in primary care (ETIC): design of a cluster randomised trial

Version: 2
Date: 30 September 2014

Reviewer: Carlos Brotons

Reviewer's report:

Title: the study is very much focused on quality of life. Perhaps should be reflected in the title.

Background

lines 101-106: it is mentioned that the aim is to improve CHF management, including.....effectiveness on quality of life. Reading this seems that the primary outcome it is expected to be some clinical parameter related with heart failure. This contrasts with the primary outcome stated (methods, lin 135) which is patients' quality of life. Text in background should be modified

Line 119: all GPs who volunteered.....'. Line 158: 'potentially eligible practices are identified....' Should be clarified GPs/practice selection. It is a little confused talking about practices and GPs. It would be better to use only one term.

Line 173: who will train GPs?

Secondary outcomes (line 145): how mortality and hospitalizations will be assessed and confirmed?

Sample size: Overall will be 200 hundred patients in each group? please, especificed.

Discussion

Limitations of the study should be mentioned (bias of voluntary practices, probably lack of power to assess mortality and hospitalizations,...)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'