Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 26 October 2014

Reviewer: Frank F Peters-Klimm

Reviewer’s report:

This study protocol is reporting a medium-size CRT on an educational Intervention in French GPs regarding heart failure care.

Major Compulsory Revisions
- Description on interventional elements regarding time duration and how the fidelity of the implementation of the Intervention will be measurable.
- No comments regarding medical Treatment (pharmacotherapy) are being made. Will this outcome measured - and, if, to what extent?
- the Researchers decided to first randomise the practices, then perform the Intervention. Ideally, GPs should first recruit Patients and make a baseline measurement of the outcome. This cannot be helped now anymore, but a (probable practical) reason should be given.

Minor Essential Revisions
In the Background the authors move from international data on DMP to the French situation arguing that there is no literature for Primary care interventions. Actually there is some literature in Primary care from the Netherlands and Germany. The example of Germany
- Peters-Klimm F et al. GMA Z Med Ausbildung
The example of Germany has shown that aiming at improved health related QoL in HF patients is an ambitious aim, even in more intense interventions (Peters-Klimm F, Campbell S, Hermann K, Kunz CU, Müller-Tasch T, Szecsenyi J. Case management for patients with chronic systolic heart failure in primary care: the HICMan exploratory randomised controlled trial. Trials 2010; 11:56.)
Some of the existing literature should be integrated in the Background section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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