Reviewer’s report

Title: Rationale, design and baseline results of the Treatment Optimisation in Primary care of Heart failure in the Utrecht region (TOPHU) study: a cluster randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 23 August 2015

Reviewer: Romain Eschalier

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript is now clearly improved.

Major Compulsory Revisions

. You have to change the title of the manuscript since HF diagnosis is one of the objective of your study and is not currently in your title.

. Since you have a very short training (2 hours) it is mandatory to have a longer evaluation of HF drugs prescription and not only for 6 months. Thus, we can imagine that the up-titration and optimization of HF drugs may be less important after 6 months.

. A short training is a choice and I understand it suites well to the Netherlands scheme. However, absence of new formation may probably induce a negative or neutral effect.

Minor Essential Revisions

. Add Ivabradine in the up-titration scheme.

. Delete the numbers of included patients in the Figure 1

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests