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: 27 August 2015

Reviewer: pupalan iyangkaran

Reviewer's report:

This article has received 2 critical peer assessment in the first round. The authors are commended for their robust rebuttal and replies with changes to comments made from both reviewers.

The final criticism is based on the structure of this methods paper. In this is to ensure a good introduction to understand the need for the study, a robust methods to ensure study is reproducible; results (not needed) and discussion to present the thinking behind the methods. It appears the authors have largely addressed these issues.

The final criticism is the discussions. Perhaps it could be strengthened to cover more domains even the ones in the cover letter.

Recommend for publication and editors discretion as to any further changes in the discussion.

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:

none