Reviewer’s report

Title: Design of the ZWOT-CASE study: an observational study on the effectiveness of an integrated programme for cardiovascular risk management compared to usual care in general practice

Version: 2 Date: 23 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

N/A - no experiments or analyses

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

N/A - there are no statistics in this study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

N/A - no results to interpret
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: 1: It is up to journal editors to decide whether they accept retrospective study registration and absence of process evaluation. The revised manuscript has sufficient quality and relevance to support publication.

2-5: Well addressed or indeed not applicable to this study, which was done in previous years.

6: The label 'pragmatic observational study' is fine with me, but contradicts with the phrase 'control group' which is typical for an experimental study. Given the self-selection of intervention and control practices, I don't think that the phrase control group should be used.

7-12: These comments have been well addressed.

13-14: Responses are acceptable, although think that these limitations are larger than the authors feel.

15 was an optional suggestion, so it is no big issue that it has not been included.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

I refer to my review. The revision is generally very well done. My only remaining comment is that I would prefer to avoid the phrase 'control group' for this observational study in which groups are composed on the basis of self-selection.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

See above.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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