Reviewer's report

Title: Cognitive behavioural Internet therapy -- CBIT trial. A randomized controlled trial testing the efficacy of a web-based cognitive behavioural intervention for adult patients with chronic fatigue syndrome: study protocol.

Version: 3  Date: 29 June 2015

Reviewer: Pim Cuijpers

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written and well-designed protocol paper. I have a few smaller comments:
- When does the recruitment begin and has the recruitment already started now?
- At several places in the methods section the authors write in the past tense, as if the study has finished already. That should be corrected.
- The paper says that test assistants will do all assessments, but it is not clear whether they will be blinded for the condition to which the patients are assigned or not.
- Why are administrative assistants not blinded for the conditions?
- The analyses are well described and adequate. However, I don't understand why only five imputations will be done. Why not 25 or even 100?
- The power calculation is OK, except that I think a drop-out rate of 15% is rather low. Is that based on earlier trials?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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