**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Randomised controlled trial protocol (GRIP study): Examining the effect of involvement of a general practitioner and home care oncology nurse after a cancer diagnosis on patient reported outcomes and healthcare utilization.

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 08 Oct 2017

**Reviewer:** Fredrick Ashbury

**Reviewer’s report:**

Considerations:

Please comment, in your background section (only if true) on whether or not there will be future challenges in the Dutch cancer system due to workforce shortages related to a loss of oncologists who will be retiring in the next few years. If this is true (as it is in other jurisdictions), there will be enormous pressure to find alternative methods of care delivery, including primary care and physician extenders.

Page 4, the study protocol has only 2 exclusion criteria? For example, if patients are receiving off-label treatment (outside of guidelines) would they still be included?

Potential for bias (particularly with regard to the patient satisfaction outcome) that the GP's are part of GRIP study?

Page 7, "…all have ample clinical experience." Define ample. What is the range of experience in years?

Page 10, did you do a pilot study that demonstrates patients will complete all the questionnaires you are proposing to use, and if so, this should be referenced in the discussion section; otherwise, it should be acknowledged as a potential limitation (loss to follow-up) concern.

In the discussion section, please comment on the extent to which the inclusion of multiple cancer diagnoses may impact interpretations and recommendations for the program's design. You are recruiting only 150 total patients and there are multiple diagnoses, which you can under or over-represent depending on your recruitment. This is an important issue to discuss.

Minor:

Page 1, line 22, remove "or" at the end of the sentence, so it reads "…lung, colorectal, gynaecologic cancer, or melanoma."

Page 2, line 50, replace "Beside" with "In addition to" to read, "In addition to the rising numbers of cancer patients…"
Therefore, we designed the GRIP study. Since this is the first place you introduce the study name in the formal body of the paper, the acronym should be defined. Also, in the title of the paper, you present the study as Grip and in the paper it is GRIP. It should be the same in all places.

Patient is 18 years of age or older

Page 11, line 258, place an "s" on contact to be "contacts"

Page 8, line 185, I find the expression "during the cancer continuum" awkward. Do you mean, the patients will receive usual care throughout their cancer journey? If so, I suggest re-phrasing it as such.

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:

Acceptable

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