Reviewer's report

Title: Parent distress reactions following a serious illness or injury in their child: A protocol paper for The Take a Breath Cohort Study

Version: 2 Date: 10 February 2015

Reviewer: David A Fedele

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions - None

Minor Essential Revision

1. Please provide examples of what was classified as a "major trauma" for parents in the exclusion criteria.
2. A brief description of how covariates will be assessed and included in relevant analyses seems important.
3. The authors briefly mention power analyses in the data analysis section. The authors are encouraged to provide a priori power analyses for each relevant aim.
4. Figure 1 was somewhat confusing since it includes targets for intervention which is beyond what the authors are targeting in this study. It is recommended that the authors mention in the text or remove the intervention wording from Figure 1.
5. Figure 2 could be easily misinterpreted given the arrows in the diagram. It is recommended that the authors include IVs in the first box, mediators/moderators in the second box, and then outcomes in the final box, similar to the models they are testing. Currently, one could interpret that the moderators were IVs if they happened to take a look at the figure quickly.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Consider restating the aims in the data analysis section.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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' below.