Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy of a Self-Management Program in Patients with Chronic Viral Hepatitis in China

Version: 0 Date: 13 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Faith Agbozo

Reviewer's report:

Abstract:
The methods section should not contain any results. Consider sending the mean age to the results section.

The result in the abstract is too scantily and not informative of the key findings of the study. Provide summary of results for each endpoint assessed.

Kindly have a language editor review the draft including the text in the figures as there are pockets of grammatical problems.

Clearly define and differentiate between self-management and self-efficacy in the context of your study and the skills that each constitutes. Just citing a reference is not enough.

Fig 1-1 is unconventional, unclear and does any convey any additional information. Either you modify the figure highlighting the relationship between the concepts or consider deleting it.

Figure 1-2 is informative. But the direction of some of the arrows seem to cloud the clarify. Showing or stratifying which activities represent input activities, outcome, etc will be helpful.

Rational for using the stratified sampling, open-label trial design should be stated.

Nowhere in the methods is mention made of qualitative methods despite providing qualitative results. Elaborate on the study design indicating the use of mixed methods and highlight the specific designs. State the number of participants selected for the qualitative study, the basis for their selection, what data were collected, how they were collected, how data was analyzed and provide details on key qualitative issues like translation.

Please separate the study setting from the participants. The context of the study is inadequate. You need to give international audience more background into the characteristics (eg level, services provided, populations served, number of hospitalizations, etc) of the study facility in order for readers to conceptualize the findings.

I believe majority of patients diagnosed with HBV and HCV are treated on out-patients basis. Why did you restrict to only in-patients (hospitalized)?
Considering that illiterates might be the ones who need the intervention the most, why were they excluded? What defines one as an illiterate?

Exclusion criteria - What spectrum of diseases constitute 'other diseases'?

For a country that "has the highest number of occurrences of deaths due to hepatocellular carcinoma in the world", the sample size used is too small and the background for arriving at it is not plausible. It appears not to be representative and has implications on the validity and reliability of the study. This is a major flaw.

What was the size of the sampling frame from which participants were selected? How were participants selected before randomizing them into the 2 groups?

Since Mann-Whitney U test is a non-parametric test, how did you ensure that it did not affect the statistical power? Indicate which variables were analyzed using parametric and non-parametric tests?

Table 1. Consider removing 'Interferon' and 'Ribavirin' as none of the participants were given those treatments.

Table 2. Please define all the acronyms

Table 3. Kindly state the p value to 3 decimal places and the OR to the 2 decimal places consistent with the CI. Ensure consistency of decimal places in all the tables

Consider transposing the IV and UC values in tables 4 and 5 to the table heading.

Avoid repeating results in the discussion.

How do you ensure sustainability of the intervention beyond the project period?

Implications for practice: avoid repeating the results and state how the findings are expected to affect nursing practice both locally and globally.

Kindly review the conclusions and ensure that it is reflective of the findings in your study.

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

No

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.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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