Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of an online writing aid tool for writing a randomized trial report: The COBWEB (COnsort Based WEB tool) randomized controlled trial

Version: 1  Date: 23 May 2015

Reviewer: Ana Marusic

Reviewer’s report:

This is the first study that tests the effectiveness of CONSORT writing tool, which may prove to be a useful tool for health researchers and improve the transparency and accountability of health research. This tool may prove to be useful to health researchers. The authors discuss well the limitations of the study which tested the tool for items from the methods section of RCT articles.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The Introduction section states that CONSORT has been endorsed by editorial organizations and 585 journals, but there is no reference to these claims.
2. How would the authors explain the lack of difference for blinding and outcomes section of the methods.
3. I would be also good to discuss the applicability of the tool in less resourceful settings. Would the tool work also as a pencil and paper tool?

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I work with David Moher, Doug Altman and Philippe Ravaud in the Steering Group of the EQUATOR Network, but we have no joint research publications.