Reviewer's report

Title: The cost-effectiveness analysis of Jinqi Jiangtang tablets for the treatment of pre-diabetes: randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter design

Version: 8 Date: 8 July 2015

Reviewer: Zhixiu Lin

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript submitted by Sun et al. reports a clinical study to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of Jinqi Jiangtang tablets for the treatment of pre-diabetes. The trial is of interest as it aimed to investigate both clinical effectiveness and economical cost-effectiveness of the Chinese patent drug in the treatment of pre-diabetes. The prevention of diabetes aspect of the study is commended too. If properly conducted, it may provide important information about the value of this herbal product in diabetes prevention. Unfortunately, there are a number of severe deficits evidenced in the manuscript which should attract the attention of the authors.

Major:

Trial design and method:
It is not clear from the manuscript whether the diagnosis criteria stated is the diabetes criteria or pre-diabetes criteria.

It is not clear what is meant by Suspension in the Method part. Does Suspension mean exclusion? Also, it is not entirely clear what “data is incomplete” meant in the Rejection criteria.

What was placebo medication consisted of? The description was not clear. How to measure the patient compliance was not provided.

From the description about the cost of care, the reviewer had difficulty to understand the model to calculate the cost of care. This should be clearly described and lest the readers to guess how it was calculated.

The reason to chose SF36 for the secondary outcome measure is unclear. As a common sense, the pre-diabetic stage has no direct correlation with the SF36 measurement. The reason for its selection should be provided.

Others:

The manuscript suffers from a suboptimal use of English language. Many fragments of phrases were used instead of complete sentence. In too many places, the use of language was starkly insufficient to describe what the authors wanted to say. An extensive revision by language editing on the entire manuscript is necessary before the manuscript can be reassessed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interest to declare.