Reviewer’s report

Title: A Feasibility Study of an Intervention for Structured Preparation before Detoxification in Alcohol Dependence: the SPADe trial protocol.

Version: 1 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Renata Felipe

Reviewer's report:

Comments on: "A Feasibility Study of an Intervention for Structured Preparation before detoxification in Alcohol Dependence: the SPADe trial protocol."

Thank you for the answers and comments. It is an important and interesting paper, but some points still need elucidation.

1. Introduction: a) The evolution of the themes got better. However, the first paragraph has a number of important epidemiological data, but they have not been well connected, only placed in the text.

2. Introduction: b) the introduction continues to suggest that detoxification is the cause of the alcoholic patient's harm, failing to consider the complexity of the disease and treatment. I do not think it's a good strategy to introduce the study. It is more plausible to understand that detoxification is not enough and needs to be improved, changed or combined with other treatments/strategies.

4. Aims and objectives: a) "Author: The key research question is: can we design a large scale, randomised controlled trial (RCT), that will answer whether SPADe is more effective than usual care in helping adults to maintain longer periods of alcohol abstinence? The feasibility trial will compare the use of SPADe with treatment as usual in the participating sites and will enable us to do the following". I do not think the study compares SPADE with TAU. But it compares SPADE + TAU versus TAU (clinical effectiveness of SPADe as an adjunct to Treatment as Usual (TAU), against TAU).

5. Aims and objectives: b) The more specific objectives and the future plans can be discussed in the discussion topic.

6. Methods. a) Figure 1: Author: "Figure 1: Recruitment Flow Diagram": The figure is not just about recruitment. B) Figure 1: Author: "Allocated to Intervention (n=25) * Receive SPADe for 6 weeks prior to detox". It is not more clear use prior to TAU?
7. Stage 3: Author: "Thus our approach recognizes that "the relationship between causal mechanisms and their effects is not fixed, but contingent" (on individual interpretations)." Please enter the reference.

8. Stage 3: The item of qualitative study is extensive and sometimes unclear.

9. Author: "Completion of recruitment is expected in April 2018." Is the recruitment over?

10. Formatting errors. (list of abbreviations, points together)

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