Reviewer’s report

Title: Improving bereavement outcomes in Zimbabwe: protocol for a feasibility cluster trial of the 9-cell Bereavement Tool

Version: 0 Date: 17 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Svetlana Tishkovskaya

Reviewer's report:

The protocol requires some improvements, including compliance with SPIRIT Statement. I have the following comments and suggestions for improvement:

*) Outcomes are not clearly defined.

*) Measures to assess contamination are not clear.

*) Are there retention measures planned?

*) It is not clear what plans for data monitoring are in place.

*) The trial is cluster randomised but cluster effect is not mentioned. Are authors planning to estimate ICC? What is required for calculating sample size for the future trial?

*) Have authors consulted with the CONSORT extension for randomised pilot and feasibility trials and do they plan the feasibility trial taking into account CONSORT reporting guidance?

Minor comments:

*) Abstract lines 47 -48: T0, T1 and T2 notations are not informative here.

*) Line 249 - font change.

*) Line 359 -- 'data normality' is not necessary required, symmetry of distribution would be a requirement for reporting median (IQR).

My copy does not have page numbers which makes difficult the revision referencing.

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