Reviewer’s report

Title: A controlled pilot trial of a nurse-led intervention (Mini-AFTERc) to manage fear of cancer recurrence in patients affected by breast cancer

Version: 0 Date: 31 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Zoe Moon

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the protocol for a pilot study of a brief intervention to reduce FCR. This is an interesting study which is obviously very needed. The background and rationale is well set up and well justified. The methodology is thorough and clearly described.

Minor comments
- At the end of page 9, it says that those who display increasing FCR will be offered additional support. Will these referrals etc be measured as part of the study?
- There are four sites, but they are not being randomly allocated as intervention / control sites. Why is this? Some information on how the sites have been selected would be useful.
- Will standard care at the control sites be assessed?
- Page 15 describes the screening process: "Screening includes the Fear of Cancer Recurrence 4-item (FCR4) measure (27) and participant demographical information: age (in years), cancer treatments received, education, employment and living situation." Why / how are participants being screened on these demographic items (e.g. employment / living situation)?
- Who will be conducting the analysis? Will they be blind?

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Acceptable

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