Reviewer’s report

Title: Benefits of temporary alcohol restriction: a feasibility randomised trial

Version: 1 Date: 19 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Gillian Lancaster

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting feasibility study about alcohol abstinence.

I have a few suggestions and comments to make.

1. Page 2, line 29 please insert 'feasibility' before 'outcomes'.

2. Page 11 line 14 'included those measures' (please insert measures). Also change subheading to 'Primary feasibility outcome measures'.

3. Page 12 please change subheading to 'Secondary participant-centred outcome measures' and add a little more detail about each of the questionnaire measures listed that will be used to aid interpretation. Are they validated measures in this population?

4. Page 16 lines 20 and 23 please present percentages in text to whole numbers here (20%, 25%), 2 d.p. are not required.

5. Page 18 line 1 please put p not ps in brackets or delete sentence. Also replace 'ps' with 'p' in other tables, supplementary document and any other text where 'ps' appears.

6. Was consent given by those in non-randomised group (n=7) to use their data in the text/table 1 - if not please remove. If yes then please say so.

7. In Table 3 please replace + . ? with text headings and add a footnote to explain BAC abbreviation. Also please be consistent in using either 1 or 2 d.p. in the table.

8. In the Methods (page 15) and Results (page 17) hypothesis tests have been used and p-values given even though they are not recommended in small underpowered studies - rather confidence intervals are preferred (see Eldridge et al PFS 2016 CONSORT extension). Please add a cautionary caveat to this effect in the Methods paragraph and Discussion under limitations so that the reader is clear that these are preliminary results and should be treated with caution in a small underpowered study.
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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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