Reviewer’s report

Title: A mixed-methods review of the barriers and facilitators to recruitment of physicians and practices for primary care health services research at one centre

Version: 3 Date: 6 October 2010

Reviewer: Jonathan Graffy

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A mixed-methods review of the barriers and facilitators to recruitment of physicians and practices for primary care health services research at one centre

Major compulsory revisions
Like reviewer 1, I am not confident that this is really a grounded theory approach. I think the term thematic analysis, or framework analysis would be more appropriate, because the interview scheduled seems to have been quite specific. Also, the data reported is essentially an account of what was learnt in the interviews, but there is little reformulation or analysis to draw our underlying reasons for the findings. I would like to see the sentence “Qualitative analysis was conducted using a grounded theory” on page 5 changed to “Qualitative analysis was based on a thematic analysis of interviewees’ responses”. I regard this change, or a similar revision worded differently as essential, unless the authors can make a more convincing case that they did adopt a grounded theory approach.

Discretionary revisions
The title is long. Rather than include the word “review” which may confuse people searching, I would suggest it is just “Barriers and facilitators to recruitment of physicians and practices for primary care health services research at one centre”. Alternatively, it could be: “Barriers and facilitators to recruitment of physicians and practices for primary care health services research; mixed methods study at one centre”. I regard this as a desirable, rather than essential change.

I am happy that the authors have revised the discussion to make it more readable and concise.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests