Reviewer’s report

Title: Developing longitudinal qualitative designs: lessons learned and recommendations for health services research

Version: 1 Date: 9 October 2012

Reviewer: Anna Gagliardi

Reviewer’s report:

Many thanks to the authors for thoroughly addressing reviewer comments. I have one outstanding suggestion, considered a Major Compulsory Revision, because the reader needs to know a little bit more about how the issues were chosen and analyzed.

- Just prior to experience, state an overall goal or purpose of the paper
- move content currently under Our experience, to the first sub-section of Methods labelled Approach
- elaborate on content currently under Methods by describing how issues were identified, ie. did each author come up with a short list and then common issues were addressed, or is the list a compilation of all issues, or did they further deliberate which issues from the compilation should be addressed...as a reader I want to know whether these represent all issues or just some, and if the latter why were these chosen, are they the most prevalent or the most problematic, etc.?
- then briefly describe how each issue was analyzed, and how recommendations were generated, ie. through further discussion among investigators, through some kind of content analysis of the issues, etc.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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