Reviewer’s report

Title: Are smokers more likely to be encouraged to consult a doctor about their symptoms? A survey in Western Australia.

Version: 1 Date: 1 October 2008

Reviewer: Anders Ostrem

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There are obvious limitations to this paper. The population was recruited from only two rural practices in Western Australia. Also there was a high proportion of female respondents. Also there was a limited number of symptoms included in the vignettes and the representativeness was not established. All of these weaknesses are clear from the paper.

Even with these limitations the paper have to assests that makes me recomend it to be accepted without revision.

1. The method is little used to obtain patients perspectives of disease - but seem to be a practical approach that can easily be used in primary care.

2. The paper emphasises that we still need to inform the smoking population about the risks of smoking and early symptoms of disease. As such important message that we still have work to do!

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