Reviewer's report

**Title:** Effect of a printed reminder for turning off mobile phone in the waiting room: a before and after study.

**Version: 1 Date:** 1 December 2008

**Reviewer:** Ray O O'Connor

**Reviewer's report:**

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes.
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Some revision is needed here. How prominent was the sign. How large was it? Was it in colour? How many other signs were there in the waiting room that might have caused distraction. What is the literacy level among their patients Would some have seen but not understood the sign. What is their average waiting time for patients in the waiting room. If this is short one would expect less of them to see the sign. What is the prevalence of mobile phone ownership among patients in their practice?
3. Are the data sound? Yes.
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes I believe so.
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes.
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? To an extent. However the points raised in item number 2 above are not addressed.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes although their literature search is not comprehensive. For example I published a paper on the topic of interruptions in the consultation in 2007 in the irish Medical Journal which does not appear in their literature review. However, overall the literature review appears to be adequate.
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Some revision is needed here. The abstract does not clearly indicate what kind of printed reminder is used. In fact it is just another sign in the waiting room.
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes.

**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.

Ray O'Connor