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:** 2 December 2008

**Reviewer:** Christopher Pearce

**Reviewer's report:**

An interesting study. It does have some method issues that the authors freely acknowledge. They include the lack of a formal RCT design, and the location is a single clinic. Nevertheless, the findings are probably both reliable and valid, and certainly a pointer to further research.

I think the article would benefit from reconsidering parts of the introduction. The introduction focuses on the issue of mobile phone use and the medical environment. Whereas the research is about reminders in waiting rooms. It could be argued that whether or not mobile phones should be turned off is irrelevant to the research, which is about the waiting room reminder. With that in mind I wonder if they could include here some discussion about the cultural phenomenon of mobile phones, particularly in their culture. There are writings on how mobile phones are now part of 'an extended humanity', and the like.

The next stage is probably to ask patients to turn their phones to silent (rather than off). Is that more tolerable?

**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