Reviewer's report

Title: Attitudes, norms and controls influencing lifestyle risk factor management in general practice

Version: 1 Date: 5 May 2009

Reviewer: Bert Aertgeerts

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Minor essential Revisions

The introduction describes very accurate the problems that could be encountered with the introduction of the health check in Australia based upon evidence. The research question is therfore straightforward and a qualitative design is the appropriate design in this case.

The methods were well described. Nevertheless it is unclear if the saturation point was reached. Secondly (as the authors stated in their conclusion)this is not a "random sample" of Australian GPs so this could influence very badly the results of this study and make them less commonly applicable.

The results underpin oncemore that putting evidence into practice is the last but mostly most difficult step in the implementation of guidelines. Therefore it is very difficult to use many of the quotes upon other GPs. Because many of these quotes are related with the investigated sample.

It is also unclear to me if the "health check" was clearly defined or not for the GPs? If there were guidelines for implementation purposes? (p11 "asked how they would proceed with intervention, there was a variety of responses..."

The authors outlined a model based upon the theory of planned behaviour. For me it is not clear how they get this model and not another?

It will be usefull to implement these comments to bring this research more in perspective.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.