Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 27 May 2009

Reviewer: Trudy van der Weijden

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General
This is a relevant subject for family practice. We have to confront the epidemic of lifestyle-related degenerative, chronic disease. GPs can no longer focus on cure only, there is a responsibility felt for preventive tasks. This study explores the GPs perceptions to influencing risk factor management.

Major compulsory revisions
- I miss crucial info on the 45-49 year health check. Is it a national guideline? What is the content? How should this patient group be approached? Opportunistic case finding, or systematic screening by inviting all 45 year old patients for a health check consultation?
- Why were the GPs interviewed twice? Is this not in fact a qualitative study with 15 interviews only? How about saturation of the data?
- The GPs did self-select, so selection bias is probably existent. It seems a group of GPs participating in a motivational interviewing training. The authors should describe the characteristics of the population at the beginning of the results. Please reflect on the magnitude of the selection bias in the discussion.

Minor essential revisions
- I am surprised that there is no text on the approaching procedure of the patients for such health check. How did it go, according to the GPs? Do patients show up? Do the GPs view problems or challenges?
- It took me some time to find out what the acronym SNAP means. So, make it more clearly in the second paragraph of the background, eg by using bold letters.
- Did the researchers code each interview, independently from each other? How about discrepancies in coding?
- The fact that risk factors are often clustered within the same patient is typical eg in cardiovascular risk. Therefore the part on Managing multiple SNAP factors is highly relevant. I would have expected more discussion on this issue, eg reflection on shared decision making.

Discretionary revisions
- Page 7: What is LIfescripts. You refer to the website, but can you tell us a bit about it in a few lines?
- Page 11: transfer text on theory of planned behaviour to the analysis section of the methods
- page 11 en 12: "attitudes, expectations and controls" in the text and "attitudes, norms and controls" in the figure. Confusing.
- page 12: I do not agree that the clinicians feeling about their own effectiveness is part of attitude. It is part of controls, to me known as perceived behavioral control or self-efficacy.

**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'