Reviewer's report

Title: Qualitative insights into general practitioners views on polypharmacy.

Version: 4 Date: 3 May 2010

Reviewer: Ulrike Junius-Walker

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript reads much better. The text flow has a logical sequence now, and there is additional information on the methods. I find the introduction, methods, results and conclusion section acceptable.

Major concerns:

Discussion: This section has improved, but could overall be still more concise and in some instances taken to a more abstract level (what do the findings mean and can solutions be found based on these findings? For example, GPs want to stop medications but patients do not: and now what?; programmes on reducing adverse drug reactions and also educational approaches have not been successful. Why not?) The main findings should be only briefly repeated. The train of thoughts is more logical to me now although not entirely stringent. The co-ordinating role of the GP (paragraph 3 on page 11) is not a problem per se but yet it is placed between the discussions of the different problematic prescribing issues. In my view this paragraph could be placed just after the second sentence of the discussion, where it is stated that GPs are an important group of prescribers.

Minor essential concerns: Spelling mistakes and English.
I am aware that a native English speaker has corrected the text, and it has improved. There remain, however, quite a few grammatical and spelling errors. E.g.

Page 3: The purpose of this study is to describe GPs’ views…
Page 5: reflections on GPs’ specific role..
Page 5: Within each broad section in the interview topic guide, there were…
Page 5: Proper paragraph before Rigour of the study
Page 6: The data show…
Page 6: regimens
Page 7: be aware that you changed the tempus. More GPs described .. that these are….. versus… and then: GPs perceive
Page 8, citation: There is a complaint.. and withdraw it from the patient.”
Page 8: GPs suggest that a list of priority medication in order of importance might..
Page 8: The respondents mention that it is very important..

Page 9: last sentence: This is in contrast to

Page 10: This is perceived as a very tough job for GPs

Page 10: This study highlights some of the GPs’ perceptions…

Page 10 polypharmacy

Page 10/11 check consistency of tempus

Page 11: try and find synonym for mention. Nearly every paragraph starts like this.

Page 11: AS the respondents in our study mentioned the primary care setting is also seen… Why “also”?

Abstract: polypharmacy; adherence instead of compliance; The patients’ strong belief; According to the respondents...; Future research in this area, especially interventions seeking to...; In my view you could delete the last half sentence: ...or they might become...

A problem with understanding:
Page 4: what do you mean by “position”? ; instead of “between practice setting” you could perhaps use “location”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.