Reviewer's report

Title: Putting Prevention into Practice: Barriers and Facilitating Factors Perceived by General Practitioners: Qualitative Study

Version: 3 Date: 8 February 2010

Reviewer: John Litt

Reviewer's report:

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. My computer died and the IT folk have just returned it after a 2 week rebuild.

While the authors have addressed some of my comments, a number of outstanding issues remain

1. It is unclear what new knowledge is provided. Admittedly, the information is new for German doctors but the presentation of information is still fairly chaotic, limited in sections and not particularly cohesive. For example, there is still overlap in the data presented in the tables; the summary of some areas is fairly simplistic eg the factors predicting adherence (on page 4); the face and content validity of the interview questions

2. The authors allude to several frameworks but are not guided by them. Given the need that has been well established in the literature in this area and the availability of several possible frameworks, the study doesn't really advance our knowledge. It ignores the fact that a number of investigators have attempted to provide skills in communication training with mixed success

3. A number of typos and grammatical errors remain

4. The limited clarification of the meaning of the interviews or their interpretation. Several of the quotes inserted raise issues that require further exploration to establish what the interviewee meant eg p10 'it depends on the mental status of the patient',

Similarly, the authors state that the absence of social interest for prevention in older patients is a barrier to implementation (p14)- what do they mean here?

Again on p14 the authors state that patients who are highly motivated by past positive experiences are more likely to demand preventive care but provide no discussion of the other possible factors or the evidence to support their statement.

P15, the authors state the benefits of group work on implementation of prevention without providing any supporting evidence

p 16, the investigators state that 12 physicians mentioned having a positive change throughout their practical experience. What were the key factors that they believed contributed to this positive experience?