Reviewer’s report

Title: Is chronic pelvic pain a comfortable diagnosis for primary care practitioners: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 28 August 2009

Reviewer: Brona M Fullen

Reviewer’s report:

Thank-you for asking me to review this interesting paper. I am enclosing comments for the authors.

Introduction MAJOR

1. It would be useful to know whether there are international guidelines for the investigation and management of CPP from appropriate bodies e.g. IASP, RCGP, what in particular has been researched in this area previously.

2. The inclusion of practice nurses in the study is not clear. It would appear that they do not have a role in the diagnosis or onward referral of this patient cohort. I would recommend that the study findings would be clearer if the paper was confined to GPs alone. A clearer message would emerge regarding the complexity of the problem and difficulty with management.

Are the methods appropriate and well described? MAJOR

Overall, yes, the methods are appropriate.

3. However, could the authors add the inter-rater and intra-rater reliability figures for the coding of the themes.

4. Could the authors also confirm that ethical approval was obtained for the study.

Are the data sound? MINOR

Yes, data was sound.

5. It would be useful to add a summary paragraph at the beginning of the results section listing the themes that were found.

6. Also, it might help the reader if the number of GPs who agreed with a particular theme was included e.g. page 7 ‘A new disorder’ – Several GPs (n=).

7. The line numbers for the beginning of the quotes should also be added.

Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? MAJOR

8. Were these GPs included in the study representative of the population in terms of demographics.

9. If there are established guidelines for CPP it would be useful to compare the
GPs management with them.

10. The impact of the patients’ attitudes was also highlighted as a theme. Further elaboration of the impact of both the doctor and patients attitude to management could be included.

11. Doctors education regarding this condition e.g. from RCGP should also be discussed although it was not directly discussed in the interviews.

Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes

Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
No

Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes

Is the writing acceptable?
12. Yes, but check punctuation MINOR

**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