Reviewer's report

Title: Perceptions of Doctor-Nurse Collaborative Practices by Patients with Multimorbidity: A Qualitative Study

Version: 3 Date: 1 June 2010

Reviewer: Judith G Baggs

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. I do not think this paper is about collaboration. It seems to be about patients’ perceptions of nurses taking on some roles and work previously done by MDs. The definition provided simply indicates both nurses and physicians were “involved.” If the paper were re-framed in this fashion, it would be acceptable.

2. In addition, actual descriptions of what the MDs were doing and what the nurses were doing is minimal. It seems visits often were to one or the other. Were they collaborating? We don’t know, nor, apparently, did the patients.

3. I would suggest that they way to get patients’ perspectives on RN/MD collaboration would be to collect baseline data, establish a genuine collaborative practice, and collect “after” data, or to compare perspectives in a site with and without clearly defined and described collaborative practice.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. The authors indicate the sample was selected purposefully for maximum variation, but they need to explain what variables they used to find patients exhibiting maximum variation. Variation in what? Age, sex, amount of experience with nurses acting in roles formerly held by MDs, religion, country of origin, number of co-morbidities, types of co-morbidities, length of time in this practice, time since diagnoses? Any of these could be tapped, but the reader is not told which were.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'