Reviewer's report

Title: Nurses joining family doctors in primary care practices: perceptions of patients with multimorbidity

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Reviewer: Judith G Baggs

Reviewer's report:

1. The term collaboration in various forms (close collaboration, doctor-nurse collaboration, interprofessional collaboration, collaborative practice, collaborative effort, collaboration in care, working collaboratively, shared roles, worked in collaboration, talking about collaboration) continues to be used in the paper to refer to what was studied. Changing the title has not changed the authors' implications that what they studied was collaboration.

2. Previously the authors were asked to respond to how the sampling was purposeful and used “maximal variation.” They indicate that they responded in the paper, but the only variation I could identify was patients with and without experience with nurses in primary care. That is not maximal; it is one small variation. Many other variables are available for purposeful selection.

3. Two reviewers last time asked the authors to describe just about the roles nurses were fulfilling and the context of those roles. The authors dismiss the requests as no longer applying or because they are no longer focused on collaboration that they no long need to clarify the nurses’ roles or their context.

4. Informational comment: The term multimorbidity is not used in the US. It is not in Webster’s Dictionary, which is the standard US dictionary. I don’t mean to be ethnocentric, but I did try to work with the term. I could not access the cited paper without paying, but I did find an article in Canadian Family Physician I think from 2005 by the first author of this paper about the term. I note that in the abstract of that paper and the keywords for this paper, comorbidity is provided as an alternative. That would be the more common US term.

As a secondary consideration, it seems that the title might better be “with multimorbidities” rather than the singular. This is up to the authors to choose.

5. I do not see the author response to Fletcher’s review.

6. Finally, I would suggest two articles on qualitative description that might be helpful. Both are by Margarete Sandelowski in Research in Nursing & Health, the first in 2000, the second in 2010.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal
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