Reviewer's report

Title: Discussing patient's lifestyle choices in the consulting room: analysis of GP-patient consultations between 1975 and 2008

Version: 3 Date: 24 August 2010

Reviewer: Suzanne McKenzie

Reviewer's report:

1. No major compulsory revisions; all reviewer's comments adequately addressed

Minor essential revisions:
2. Last two sentences in "Observations" section should be in data collection- the second last sentence already is but the last sentence should be moved.
3. Typographical errors on pages 7 and 8 "time series"- the s is missing
4. Discussion section regarding the population approach not being visible- paragraph middle of page 12; the sentence "Apparently in this case the benchmark was set too high" does not make sense and represents a misunderstanding of a previous reviewer comment. Suggest removing this sentence.
5. Section on strengths and limitations- suggest including something about the representativeness of the patients in the sample. They were asked consecutively but how many consented and was there any difference between those who and did not consent. Alternatively was the sample broadly similar to the general population or to the population you might expect in a GPs surgery- eg. were the presenting problems similar to the range of GP consultation types in the Netherlands?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests