Reviewer’s report

Title: Building an international network for a primary care research program: challenges and solutions in the set-up and delivery of a prospective observational study of acute cough in 13 European Countries

Version: 1 Date: 3 May 2011

Reviewer: Frank M Sullivan

Reviewer’s report:

• Minor Essential Revisions

The sentence on p9 ‘Where local flexibility was permissible, this was made clear and, for example, PCN specific working procedures were devised for PCNs to amend and adapt to suit their individual context’ is missing for in the position indicated.

The 1st sentence of the discussion ‘To our knowledge, this is the first example of a multi-national primary care research network….’ is missing care in the position indicated.

• Discretionary Revisions

On P8 the statement ‘Each interested PCN had to submit a proposal detailing their background and perceived costing, which was used to select the most appropriate networks’ could be developed by the features of the background or costing which were most helpful in the selection process.

Similar detail might be helpful to explain (p9) how it was determined that additional training was required – how far below the required standard were investigators allowed to fall and for how long before intervention?


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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