Reviewer's report

Title: A Pilot Survey of Post-Deployment Health Care Needs in Small Community-Based Primary Care Clinics

Version: 1 Date: 19 April 2011

Reviewer: Cath Sackley

Reviewer's report:

The area is very topical and valuable.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   The question is a little vague- ‘health care needs’ could be very broad.
   Unfortunately as Table 1 is missing and the 2 health related items of the questionnaire are not described we only know the results in vague terms.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The 9 item survey should be better described but that may be within the missing Table?

3. Are the data sound?
   Difficult to tell with no comparison publication data presented (perhaps there is none?) but also no checking via other means (such as a small sample of notes checked by hand).
   The missing Table 1 again makes it difficult as the majority of data must be in that Table?

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   The Abstract should include more detail. The number of physicians included, the setting, numerical results and better description of health needs (what are the psychosocial disruptions?)

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Reasonable discussion but difficult to judge with little data reported

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Not explicitly

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   The authors do not refer to their previous work it would be interesting to know why?

Mil Med. 2010 Dec;175(12):953-7.
Postdeployment health care for returning OEF/OIF military personnel and their social networks: a qualitative approach.
But do not seem to be putting it into an International context?
Detecting post-deployment mental health problems in primary care.
Coetzee RH, Simpson RG, Greenberg N.
Indeed, the article describes the issue within the context of the US health system which is valuable but perhaps less so for an International journal?
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? No- see above
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

**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'