Reviewer’s report

Title: In search of attachment: a qualitative study of chronically ill women transitioning between family physicians in rural Ontario, Canada

Version: 1 Date: 28 October 2012

Reviewer: Byron Crouse

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Major/Minor Revisions

1) The subjects in the study are women with rheumatologic conditions. These conditions were described as ranging from OA, bursitis to RA, lupus. The diversity of these conditions creates a spectrum that could be self-managed without physician care (OA and bursitis) to those needed active physician involvement (lupus, scleroderma, RA). There is no connection made between the qualitative comments and the health conditions and this relationship may well explain why some subjects had referrals made during their transition and some did not.

2) In the limitations section, the authors may want to refer to the fact the subjects diagnoses were self-identified. Just as the subjects may have forgotten some aspects of their transition over the time span of their health care reflections, their chronic illnesses are potentially inaccurate.

Discretionary:

1) In the implications section, on page 23, there is reference to NP clinics as an alternative. If one is to speculate on alternative primary care models, it may be more beneficial to offer a Patient Centered Medical Home model where the NP are in the same clinic as the physician and patient care continuity can be maintained in the patient’s ‘medical home’ rather that transferring care to another clinic.

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