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:** 30 October 2012

**Reviewer:** Tara Vijayan

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions
none

Minor essential revisions
- Please discuss the reason for exclusion of one of your participants.

Discretionary revisions
- Please consider a table for demographics and include diseases and average number of visits to a provider for each of your patients.
  - perhaps elaborate a bit on current medical home models in Canada (that you allude to at the end, whereby services rendered are distributed between mid-level providers and doctors. The care of individuals with diabetes, for example, where by a nurse and pharmacist may be involved in the day to day care is a good example of this.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? yes
3. Are the data sound? yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? yes
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? yes- notably the issue of not recruiting until theoretical saturation and the limitations of long-term recall.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? yes

This is a very well written article and highlights the reliance on single family practitioners in care and perhaps suggests a need for redistributing services to mid-level providers and establishing medical home models of care.
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.