Reviewer's report

Title: Colorectal cancer risk assessment and screening recommendation: A community survey of healthcare providers' practice from a patient perspective.

Version: 1 Date: 5 December 2011

Reviewer: William Hamilton

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for asking me to review this paper. It is a subject i know well.

The study itself is fine, and well conducted. There is an impressive percentage uptake for a questionnaire. Scientifically, i have no quibbles.

I do wonder, however, about the whole premise of the study. We have very good evidence that systematic screening of whole populations works (several papers). we have no evidence that targeted, or risk-based screening works. Of course, the authors are following national guidance, which seems to imply that targeted screening is necessary -- but is it?

So, if we know that whole population screening works, why do we need to add an additional step, of expecting family doctors to take a FH, assess the risk and the encourage those at high risk. Are they going to discourage those at low risk? Surely, it is wiser to encourage all. I appreciate prompting by Gps works - agian there is much evidence for this.

MAJOR. Certainly, the authors need to debate this in their discussion.

MINOR. I would have relegated Table 6 to text, as it would take up less space.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'