Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient enablement requires physician empathy: a cross-sectional study of general practice consultations in areas of high and low socioeconomic deprivation in Scotland

Version: 1 Date: 5 January 2012

Reviewer: Özgür Arun

Reviewer’s report:

Comments for the Author(s):

Minor Essential Revisions

The manuscript titled “Patient enablement requires physician empathy: a cross-sectional study of general practice consultations in areas of high and low socioeconomic deprivation in Scotland” focuses on the issue of the factors influencing patient enablement in GP consultations in areas of high and low deprivation.

Please allow some comments on specific parts of the paper.

1. Could the author(s) briefly describe the necessary steps of the sampling frame?

2. Could the author(s) please add the number of cases (n) below (or above) of Table 2 and Table 3?

3. Author(s) stated that they carried out the analysis by way of binary logistic regression, with PEI scores categorized as below 3 or 3 and above. According to these categorizations which group/scores/category accepted as reference category for the Logistic Regression analysis? Could the author(s) please specify the reference category for dependent variable?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.