Reviewer’s report

Title: Heart failure patients’ experiences with continuity of care and its relation to medication adherence: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 30 June 2012

Reviewer: Ngaire Kerse

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to consider the issue of whether reviewer 2’s comments has been adequately addressed.

The points raised have all been addressed. One outstanding issue that would benefit from more attention is related to point 13. The authors report: :

13. Reviewer 2 notices that the statement that we found no clear relation between

experienced team continuity and medication adherence is contradictory because of the

significant p-value. However, both high and low levels of team continuity were associated

with maximum medication adherence (p=0.04), so the relation was unclear. We better
explain this in the Results.

The final paragraph of the results section could state that the mid levels of team continuity were associated with the lowest medication adherence.

The discussion could acknowledge that those who did not see any primary care providers for their heart failure had high levels of adherence. The limitations section does comment that although 53% reported not seeing anyone for their heart failure, and this group had high levels of compliance, almost everyone was identified as having a primary care provider and as having seen that care provider.

The discussion should also acknowledge that team continuity is related to compliance but in a non-linear way. It is likely this non-linear relationship is important but the reasons for this non-linear association are unknown, it should be interpreted with caution, and the study should be replicated before firm conclusions can be drawn about team continuity.

I think that if these minor modifications are made the concerns of the second reviewer have all been met.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'