Reviewer's report

Title: End-of-life hospital referrals by out-of-hours general practitioners: a retrospective chart study

Version: 1 Date: 14 May 2012

Reviewer: Alan Barnard

Reviewer's report:

This report makes an important contribution to the evidence base for primary palliative care and the central role of the family doctor/GP/primary care practitioner in care of patients in the community, especially at the end of life. The role of the nurse as a member of the team is also noted to be important in this study.

There are no major compulsory revisions required. The aims and objectives are clearly stated and the methods appropriate. The results do answer the question and are valuable and practical.

The data are sound and well reported though they do lend themselves to graphic representation which would be useful to the reader (either bar graphs or pie charts).

The conclusions are well supported by the data, though these are a little buried in the text and a brief text box of the "take home messages" would be useful.

The literature review is clear and sets the context and background well, and leads into the study perfectly.

The title and abstract are explanatory and fit for purpose.

The writing is satisfactory, though there are several sentences which need to be reconstructed and some grammatical errors and editorial aspects which require attention before publication.

I suggest that an English language editor be employed to revise the manuscript.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.