Reviewer's report

Title: Barriers and facilitating factors for disease self-management: a qualitative analysis of perceptions of patients' receiving care for type 2 diabetes and/or hypertension in San Jose, Costa Rica and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico

Version: 1 Date: 12 June 2013

Reviewer: Achilia Morrow

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Article does not contain an abstract
2) Primary, but not secondary objectives are missing from the Background/Introduction. Although the TransTheoretical Model is mentioned, it is not introduced as a way of categorizing patients' barriers and facilitators to care
3) Methods (further clarification)
   a. Is there a script of questions used for the focus group available?
   b. Some confusion—did two members of the team code without a pre-defined list of codes or just reviewed it for consistency. How were differences resolved?

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Description of participants is included in the methods; usually this information is found in the result section

Minor Discretionary Revisions

2) Concerning the last paragraph of the results discussing how disease is experienced by caregivers, although interesting, I am not sure how this fits into the theme of barriers and facilitators.
3) Consider addressing how does this paper add to the already existing literature.
4) Mentioning the stage of change when discussing quotes would help to improve the flow of the paper. For example after the first sentence in the results section, “In the following table we summarize the primary barriers and facilitating factors that were mentioned according to stage of change. For example, two barriers that arose as themes by those in the pre-contemplation stage are one-way communication and limited sharing of information: (the quotes)

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.