Reviewer's report

Title: Multiple perspectives on symptom interpretation in primary care research

Version: 2 Date: 7 June 2013

Reviewer: Hanna Kaduszkiewicz

Reviewer's report:

The authors discuss different perspectives on symptom interpretation as presented in biomedicine, psychology and anthropology. In sum they warn us to be cautious when interpreting survey findings that are based on symptom prevalence. I do agree with the authors.

However, I feel a bit helpless when trying to find clinical implications of this manuscript. GPs know that symptoms are sensations interpreted by the patient, the family, others and of course the GP himself/herself. We all know that there are cultural differences and interpretation also depends on experience. So in my view this paper doesn’t give us new information. Further the manuscript is difficult to read, as it is theoretical with no examples.

The manuscript consists of a background and a discussion section only. It is rather a selective narrative review than a systematic review of the subject – with no clear aim and no clear results.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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.