Reviewer's report

Title: Patients’ perceptions of a self-management booklet for hip or knee osteoarthritis: A qualitative interview study

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2013

Reviewer: Sarah Drew

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. P. 12 Explain that ‘u’, ‘r’ and ‘n’ means ‘users’, ‘readers’ and ‘non-users’ before using them in the results section.

2. P. 3, l. 7 Change ‘use’ to ‘using’.

Discretionary revisions

Title

3. Since the purpose of the study is to assess barriers and facilitators to patients using a self-management booklet this should be reflected in the title, e.g. ‘Examining the barriers and facilitators for patients to using a self-management booklet for hip and knee osteoarthritis’ I think it would also be useful to emphasise that this was distributed by GPs.

Methodology

4. Provide more information on the Integrated Change model (I-Change). What topics were derived from the I-Change model? I know this is in table 1 at the end of the paper but I think it would be useful to outline them here. Explain why the I-Change model is the most comprehensive model for understanding barriers and facilitators.

5. Detailed information about the booklet ‘Care for Osteoarthritis’ may be more suitable in the ‘background’ section. Also consider whether it is necessary to provide information about how the booklet was developed.

6. Reconsider the sentence p. 9, l. 4 ‘No other relationship existed with the participants prior to the interviews, thus excluding possible influences on the participants’ responses during the interview’. There are a number of other factors that may influence the participants’ responses during the interview, e.g. gender of the interviewer, position of seniority etc. We cannot therefore assume that all bias has been removed.

7. Reconsider p. 9, l. 13-14 ‘the questions had an open-ended format to prevent the prejudiced interpretation of the researchers while allowing participants to tell their stories’. I know what you mean but perhaps it could be a bit clearer, e.g.
'open ended questions provided participants with the scope to express themselves freely'.

8. I would be reluctant to conclude that data saturation was reached after 17 interviews. Most qualitative studies use between 20-30 interviews so this is a relatively small number.

Discussion

9. P. 17, l. 20 Why do you think it was more valid to categorize booklet use based on the interviews rather than the questionnaires?

10. P. 17, l. 20 Were barriers and facilitators explored in the questionnaires as well? I don’t think this was mentioned elsewhere.

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

**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.