Reviewer's report

Title: At the coalface and the cutting edge: A qualitative study of the pathways into and rewards of providing HIV medical care in general practice settings

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2013

Reviewer: Randy Brown

Reviewer's report:

Manuscript Review:

Abstract: Appears to concisely describe the work. Modification may be needed based upon recommendations made regarding other sections.

Background:
Para 1. Historical perspective is interesting, though the third sentence is wanting improved precision and clarity (ART introduction in “mid- to late- 1990s. . .” and what is meant by “clinical uncertainty?”)

Para 2 sets stage nicely, and is well-referenced.

Para 3. Some information regarding the accreditation process in Australia for HIV care would be informative. To what degree is this a barrier to provider engagement in HIV care?

Is there previous literature exploring other barriers (as opposed to “facilitators” described in the current work) to provider engagement in HIV care? (Previous relevant literature is also lacking in Discussion section to place the current study in context of the wider literature.)

Methods:
Appropriately descriptive of study methods.

One might question the inclusion of participant characteristics in the Methods section. This generally appears at front of Results section.

Results:
Again, might expect to see interviewee characteristics here.

Section is well-organized by themes with illustrative interview excerpts and appropriately concise summative comments.

Discussion:
Para 2 and 4 do not appear to add much value to statements already made in results. While some summative comments should be made regarding results to facilitate readability, redundancy should be minimized.

One would expect to see the current study framed in terms of relevant existing
literature to a much greater degree in order to really understand its contribution to knowledge. Para 3 does this to some degree, but for a limited set of the study’s findings. Perhaps applicable literature regarding entry into a particular field exists for other areas of medicine, which might strengthen the Discussion and the context in the literature for the current study?

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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'