Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceptions of quality in primary health care: perspectives of patients and professionals based on focus group discussions

Version: 1 Date: 6 November 2013

Reviewer: Supasit Pannarunothai

Reviewer’s report:

This paper presents results from a small qualitative method comparing characteristics of primary health care in 7 European countries. The sample size of this study was rather small – only one focus group discussion in PHC users and one in PHC professionals. Subsequent quantitative study was undertaken based on findings from this qualitative research.

This paper should be more understandable and of better quality if the authors revise based on the following comments:

1. The authors should explain why these 7 countries were selected for this comparison.
2. The authors should provide short contexts on PHC system in these 7 countries. This part will be useful for further discussions.
3. In “Methods’ section, the authors should give more detail accounts on selection criteria of both patients and professions for FGDs. It is not understandable, for example, what age groups were recruited, what professional groups participated the FGDs in each country.
4. In ‘Conclusion’ section, the contents were discussions rather than the very long conclusion. The authors should discuss more, integrating more context-specific issues to the similarities or differences of the findings.
5. The authors should write new ‘Conclusion’ section emphasizing on new findings from the study.

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 interest.