Reviewer's report

Title: Improving management of heart failure in primary care: The dynamic relationship between facilitation and context

Version: 3 Date: 20 June 2014

Reviewer: Clare Taylor

Reviewer's report:


This is an interesting paper exploring the context and relationships which were involved in improving heart failure management through the GM-HFIT project.

The paper is well-written and readable.

Minor essential revisions:

The research question could be clearer in the title and abstract. The abstract section states this is ‘a qualitative study …to explore facilitation of an evidence-based improvement intervention within the context of primary care’. This needs to be more explicit. What question is the study really trying to answer?

Methods are appropriate and well described overall but the ‘design’ section at the start needs to be clearer and more specific.

The data appear sound with good use of appropriate quotes to illustrate key points.

The use of macro and micro is confusing – need to define what is meant or use different terms….does micro = practice and local?

Major compulsory revisions:

The discussion does not flow coherently from the results. Figure 1 seems to encompass some of the themes/subthemes but not in a way which reflects what the data showed. The discussion paragraph on the role of the HF specialist nurses seems to go further than the data presented in the results section support.

The strengths and weakness section needs to be more detailed and considered.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I am funded by a Doctoral Research Fellowship from the National Institute for Health Research to undertake research on heart failure in primary care. I am also a practising GP.