Reviewer's report

Title: Patients understanding of depression associated with chronic physical illness: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2013

Reviewer: Anne Rogers

Reviewer's report:

Exploring depression and how it is conceptualised and presented in primary care is a well worn topic in the literature on primary care over the last 15 years. Whilst one or two older papers have been recognised this study repeats what has been found by other studies and indeed now meta syntheses that exist based on qualitative research. For this reason the novelty of the question has not been established.

The methods are well described - howe the sampleis small and perhaps lacks multiple variation in its composure. The emergent themes are well presented and confirm previous research themes in this area rather that presenting something that is sufficiently new. The field of depression, how it is experienced, its situation in primary care has been well established - the same is true of multi morbidity - thus re patient experience see recent work by Gask et al, Lamb et al, Kokanovic all of which are theoretically sophisticated explorations of the same topic but are not mentioned and therefore seem not to have been built upon. There are also now complex interventions designed to approach the topic see for example: Chris Dickens, Andrea Cherrington, Isabel Adeyemi, Kate Roughley, Peter Bower, Charlotte Garrett, Christine Bundy, Peter Coventry. (2013). Characteristics of psychological interventions that improve depression in people with coronary heart disease: A systematic review and meta regression. Psychosomatic medicine, eScholarID:186482 Coventry P, Bower P, Keyworth C, Kenning C, Knopp J, Garrett C, Hind D, Malpass A, Dickens C. (2013). The effect of complex interventions on depression and anxiety in COPD: systematic review and meta-analysis. PLOS One, 8(4), e60532. eScholarID:191538 Whilst this is a well conducted small scale study the results confirm rather than adds sufficiently to the current literature.

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.