Reviewer’s report

Title: General practice and ethnicity: an experimental study of doctoring

Version: 2 Date: 24 March 2014

Reviewer: Rohini Mathur

Reviewer’s report:

I’d first like to thank the authors for their comprehensive response to my questions from the previous review. The tone and detail of the article are improved.

Major compulsory revisions:

I still remain unconvinced that the relational dimension of GP care is adequately measured in this study. The authors state that the interpersonal aspect of care consists of participatory style, warmth, information giving/seeking, and time devoted to patients. This study has only looked at time, which is one of the least important aspects of this concept. Interpersonal aspects by definition, relate to quality of consultation over quantity- but this study only measures the latter. If the body of the text can be amended to make this limitation clear, then the reporting of this study would be more balanced and accurate.

Discretionary revisions:

1. The tense of the background paragraphs shifts between present tense and past tense- it would be easier to read if the tense of all paragraphs was consistent.

2. On page 3, the discussion of biases seems very strongly put. The authors should consider qualifying these statements by saying: "biases CAN lead to discrimination" or "CAN negatively influence clinical encounters"

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests