Reviewer's report

Title: Bridging the Barriers towards Evidence-Based Medicine in General Practice: a focus group based Study

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2005

Reviewer: Frank Dobbs

Reviewer's report:

General

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
A considerable amount of work has already been done in this area and it is well-summarised in the article. This article proposes a new classification system of actors, factors and levels which appears to have face validity.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
Yes.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
Yes. Data saturation was not reached, so a sufficient range of participants may not have been selected to cover the range of variables in this broad topic.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
The supporting data is well organised and referenced. Barriers are well described. Approaches to overcoming them are mentioned in the results section but more thought could be applied to suggesting integrated plans for addressing the barriers.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The title implies that overcoming barriers is the main aim of the study, but conclusions are mainly descriptive and do not supply a focussed approach to achieving the aim.

7. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

No major changes are required.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

No essential revisions.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
The authors might like to consider proposing recommendations for their Health Service, taking the integrative framework that they have proposed into account. This might involve a collaboration of the set of actors identified, and modifications of health strategy, consumer organisation involvement, primary care, secondary care and academic organisation activities.
What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests