Reviewer’s report

Title: Primary healthcare provision and chronic fatigue syndrome: a survey of patients’ and general practitioners’ beliefs

Version: 1 Date: 5 September 2005

Reviewer: Peter Campion

Reviewer’s report:

General
The paper describes two parallel surveys, one of patients with CFS, the other of GPs. The survey was confined to one Health Authority in Wales, and the conclusions are specifically directed at the situation in Wales. (This simply limits the generalisability of the study, but is not otherwise a criticism.)

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

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
(Pages numbered from the front)
The definition of CFS in the first 2 sentences of “Background” (p.3) is incomplete - the absence of an alternative medical explanation should be added (it is alluded to on p.10, but should appear here for completeness).

p.5 the reference to my report should make clear that the survey was sent to GPs (not Health Authorities), and that the ten HA’s were slected on the basis of 5 having a clinic and the other 5 being matched as far as possible but not having a clinic, and covering England, Scotland, and Wales!

On p.7 it would be useful and appropriate, if the authors drew on reference [6] for any of their material, for this to be acknowledged.

On p.13, the Chief Medical Officer was the commissioner of this report (not "Examiner").

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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.