Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1  Date: 6 October 2005

Reviewer: Ian D Steven

Reviewer’s report:

General This article is another survey in this area. It adds to the overall body of literature which addresses this relevant area which still has significant areas of deficiency in practise. The findings are comparable with those from other surveys. There are 3 areas that I feel the authors should address before the article is accepted for publication and which would strengthen it.

1. The "low" response rate is in fact very reasonable for a single contact survey and this is a relative positive.
2. Conversely the low response rate means there are issues about being able to generalise the findings from this survey to the whole population. The conclusions should acknowledge this.
3 There is no justification for the particular research instruments that have been used. There should be at least a brief discussion about whether they were piloted, whether they are valid etc.

__________________________________________________________________________

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

__________________________________________________________________________

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

__________________________________________________________________________

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

__________________________________________________________________________

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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 I have no competing interests