Reviewer's report

Title: The PSA testing dilemma: GPs' reports of consultations with asymptomatic men. A qualitative study.

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2007

Reviewer: Suzanne Steginga

Reviewer's report:

General
The study topic is highly important: most guidelines internationally recommend informed/shared decision making about PSA testing for screening for early prostate cancer, but scant work has been done to see how this recommendation is expressed in primary care and how achievable this approach is.

A qualitative approach (in depth interview) is appropriate as an initial pilot study method for addressing this issue. It is noted that a relatively small proportion of GPs in the sampling frame were actually interviewed, and this will have introduced some bias into the data. Some discussion of this would be helpful. Data collection was undertaken in a structured and careful way, the analytic approach is sound, and the data well described. The data is limited by its retrospective nature, but this is acknowledged by the authors.

The discussion is balanced and relevant to clinical practice.

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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)
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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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