Reviewer's report

Title: Sleep problems and functional disability in children with functional gastrointestinal disorders: An examination of the potential mediating effects of physical and emotional symptoms

Version: 1 Date: 10 August 2012

Reviewer: Rona Levy

Reviewer's report:

1. This is a very interesting study and the main message in the study, the potential impact of sleep to the FGIDs, is one that pediatric gastroenterologists should receive.

2. The paper would be enhanced by some information on normative data for this population - ie what is the level of sleep disturbance in groups of children without chronic disease in this age range.

3. The last paragraph is a little unclear: "results from this study seem to suggest that intervening with emotional symptoms may not be the most direct pathway to improving daily function in children with FGIDs. Instead, both sleep problems and physical symptoms could be appropriate". How would a practitioner address sleep problems without dealing with emotional problems such as anxiety?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.