Reviewer’s report

Title: A taboo within a stigma? A qualitative study of managing incontinence in people with dementia living at home

Version: 1 Date: 7 September 2011

Reviewer: Susan Helen Koch

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
I have no major revision requests

Minor Essential Revisions

When reading the background for the study the opening paragraph reads as a series of statements rather than a flowing discussion of the issues. This detracts from what the authors are trying to convey and I would recommend this be addressed.

Discretionary Revisions

I wonder if the authors considered the use of negative narrative may have biased their findings? There is no real evidence of the emergence of the strengths of carers in managing continence issues for this group.

Did the authors provide the interviewees with their definition of incontinence prior to interviewing? and what terminology was used for the structured interviews. As stated above the use of language can impact on the information received and interpreted by participants.

I also consider the authors include a statement regarding the limitations to their study, if any are perceived.

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'