Reviewer's report

Title: Perceived needs and satisfaction with care in people with multiple sclerosis: a two-year prospective study

Version: 2 Date: 8 May 2008

Reviewer: David Hoaglin

Reviewer's report:

My review of the manuscript focused on its statistical aspects and on related issues.

The choice of statistical methods is generally appropriate. If, however, the authors had needed to analyze apparent time trends in participants' perceived needs, they would have had to go beyond Cochran's Q test, perhaps to some form of generalized linear mixed model.

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Why was satisfaction with care dichotomized (page 7)? If the participants' responses were not concentrated in a way that made dichotomization necessary, it might have been helpful to use more of the information in the Likert scale.

2. "In those with severe EDSS, a statistically significant variation was found concerning occupational therapy" (page 8). Please report the p-value.

3. The paragraph at the bottom of page 9 reports on the association between perceived need and severe vs. mild state of MS. How do perceived needs among those with a moderate state of MS fit into this pattern? Were those PwMS not included in these analyses? Also, that paragraph does not mention workplace adaptation.

Discretionary Revisions:

4. Can the authors compare the characteristics of the 36 PwMS who declined to participate against the characteristics of the 219 who were included?

5. In the discussion (bottom of page 11 and top of page 12) the authors suggest that receipt of immunomodulatory treatment accounts for participants' feeling burdened by the costs of care. It should be possible to examine this question in further analysis. A logistic regression model could use receipt of immunomodulatory treatment as a predictor, along with appropriate covariates (for adjustment).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely
related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.