Reviewer's report

Title: A multi-disciplinary education process concerning discharging children from hospital when the child is newly diagnosed with Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus - a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 29 December 2009

Reviewer: Lesley Lowes

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In the Results section, one of the sub-themes is called either Bringing about a knowing 'what' or knowing 'that'(depending which page is being read). This sub-theme needs further explanation, because even after careful reading of the text, I do not understand what this means. This may be partly due to interpretation of data into English, which made reading and understanding this paper quite challenging at times.

2. There needs to be more data extracts included in the paper to back up the inferences drawn from the data.

3. The recognised study limitations cast doubt upon the usefulness of the data. It is important that the authors justify the usefulness of publishing a paper based on these data.

Minor Compulsory Revisions

4. In the Results section, when describing the sub-theme - Bringing about a feeling... , the authors state that families going on leave would be given the phone number of the PDSN, blood glucose monitor and dextrose (as a security measure). Surely the family would be given the blood glucose meter, dextrose and insulin (which is not mentioned!) as a necessary part of their equipment for day-to-day management of type 1 diabetes?

5. I believe it would be more appropriate to talk about type 1 diabetes (rather than insulin dependent diabetes mellitus [IDDM]) throughout the study and, importantly, in the title.

6. How would the team ensure that the child experienced a hypoglycaemic episode before discharge?

7. It is important to note that the systematic review by Clar et al also stated that there was insufficient rigorous evidence to draw conclusions about the effect of hospital versus outpatient care.

Discretionary Revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'