Reviewer's report

Title: A multi-disciplinary education process concerning discharging children from hospital when the child is newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes - a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 21 January 2010

Reviewer: Lesley Lowes

Reviewer's report:

The authors have clearly tried to address the concerns and comments of the reviewers. However, there are still grammatical errors and other issues that will need to be addressed if this paper is to be published. For example:

The authors state that patients with type 1 diabetes, not acutely ill, are mostly treated on an outpatient basis in the UK. Only about 1/3 of UK paediatric clinics practice home management (see: Lowes L et al (2009) A UK wide survey of insulin initiation in children with type 1 diabetes and nurses' perceptions of associated decision-making. Journal of Clinical Nursing 18(9), 1287-1294.)

There is no evidence about outcomes (e.g. is 'compliance' sustained post-discharge?) from the described study.

I am surprised that parents were only asked 'after a few days' to voice their own questions.

Terminology needs to be consistent - blood glucose (not blood sugar) throughout.

I'm not quite sure what 'paralysed' is referring to.

For information for the authors, a study is currently being undertaken to examine home vs hospital at diagnosis for children with type 1 diabetes (www.decide-study.co.uk)

The conclusion merely reiterates the findings.

There are many more of these types of issues, but I have more concern about the methodology. I wonder whether the focus groups, each of which comprised health professionals from the same team, were appropriate to elicit valid data, considering the typically hierarchical structure of clinical teams. It is not surprising, perhaps, that the authors found silence from others when participants described their role with patients, no confrontation (differences of opinion?), and total concurrence.

My other problem with this work is that I don't think it says anything new, particularly for clinicians, although it may provide the basis for further work in this
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'