Reviewer's report

Title: Prevention of coronary heart disease in people with severe mental illnesses: A qualitative study of patient and professionals' preferences for care

Version: 1 Date: 20 February 2006

Reviewer: Donna Fitzsimons

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an interesting and well constructed paper that deals with an important clinical issue.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The conclusions of your paper extend beyond the data. Yours was a small study with methodological limitations and it is therefore impossible to conclude that "neither primary or secondary care services on their own....."
The discussion of your own findings should be presented in the context of their limitations. It should also integrate the previous literature in this area with your own work, discussing differences and similarities.
The literature you cite is scant and although I am not an expert in SMI it feels like it is dealt with quite superficially. Also some integration of general CHD literature may have helped extend the horizons of your paper, particularly when you seek practical solutions to the issue.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
How did you select sample? Did you have inclusion or exclusion criteria? Had any of the patients CHD?
What type of interview technique did you employ? Why? There are limitations to using what seems like a highly structured approach in a qualitative study - acknowledge these.
Why did you seek participants' views on the specialist nurse-led model?
Give more details on this and why you suggested it?

I feel the message in this paper in couched in quite a negative way - the development of these services could be regarded as an opportunity for skill expansion and more integrated services.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.