Reviewer’s report

Title: What do patients want from a psychiatric consultation? - A study from Karachi

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2007

Reviewer: Greg E Simon

Reviewer’s report:

General

The topic is of general interest and the paper is a reasonable addition to the literature. There are no major concerns regarding methods. Limitations are appropriately acknowledged. The paper could be trimmed considerably without significant loss of value.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The description of methods should include more detail regarding the study setting. Specific questions include: What referral or care-seeking pathway do patients typically take to reach these clinics? How representative are these patients of all patients seen in psychiatric clinics? How available or accessible is specialty mental health care?

Table 1 and Figure 1 duplicate each other; only one is necessary. Whichever is used, the table or figure should include the 95% confidence limit for each observed percentage.

The text of the methods section should briefly summarize the findings.

Much of the discussion section simply describes the findings reported in the table/figure. This section could be significantly shortened.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory 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