Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 21 August 2007

Reviewer: Sandra van Dulmen

Reviewer’s report:

General

Although the paper has certainly been improved, there are still a number of important questions which have not been answered satisfactorily by the authors. I will list these issues one by one.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

The mix up of terms has been reduced, but there remains a conceptual inclarity by aiming at studying 'expectations', but measuring 'important issues (or wants)' instead. The reason why health professionals should be aware of patients' expectations differs from the reason to know what patients want. The authors should be aware of this difference and abandon the issue of expectation altogether, since they have not measured this.

The psychometric properties (Cronbach's alpha etc) of the questionnaire are still missing.

The reason why some questionnaire items were written in the first and others in the third person is still not given, although it does elicit different answers.

Still, no information is given on nonresponse or possible selection bias.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

In the authors’ answers on my comments it can been read that the figure is kept, while in the revised paper the table is now included.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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 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.