Reviewer's report

Title: "Five persons in my family have diabetes. Does this have to do with inheritance?" A qualitative study of patients and family members searching for online information about the role of inheritance in diabetes

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2010

Reviewer: Susan Sullivan-Bolyai

Reviewer's report:

*Background section should include ROL regarding how often people retrieve/use internet to answer medical-related questions for themselves or loved ones.
*Methods: Omitted 2ndary content analysis and briefly its benefits and weaknesses and internet use (pros/cons)
*Missing: sample and inclusion/exclusion criteria although you mention it in analysis section (where it doesn’t belong)
*Missing: Explanation of IRB process & ethical considerations esp with internet use: how did you protect confidentiality of participants etc..
*Missing: data management (you have it under analysis; how you cleaned the data and linking it back to inclusion/exclusion criteria
*Give n for each result instead of saying 1/5, 1/2
*Alert reader to 'Table 1' at the beginning of results and then do a brief overview of who the participants were
*I am curious, when someone asks a question, who answers it for them? I would include this information when you are describing the online site.
*First paragraph in Discussion section belongs in 'Results'
*Discussion should compare results to previous empirical literature, is it similar, different and if so why. I found that lacking in this section.
*I think the most common questions/concerns posed could be incorporated into diabetes family education where the clinician could say 'here is a list of the most common questions asked online'....and then have the patient/family member check off which ones they are concerned about and discuss.

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.