Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors impacting on Diabetic patient's ability to assimilate the Dose Adjustment For Normal Eating (DAFNE) principles into daily living and how these factors change over time

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2011

Reviewer: Harold David McIntyre

Reviewer’s report:

General

The authors present a clear account of a qualitative, thematic study based around participants' experience with the DAFNE programme. Due to the nature of the study, no statistical analysis is provided. Rather, themes are outlined and quotes from participants used to illustrate the dominant themes.

The paper contains points of interest particularly because of the longitudinal approach to data collection and the excellent retention rates over the course of the study.

Major Compulsory Revisions
Nil

* Minor Essential Revisions
(1) The introduction should be edited to provide more direct reference to Type 1 diabetes and its management in the Irish context. At present it is too generic and does not guide the reader towards the central theme of the article.

(2) Check carefully for spelling mistakes, especially those not readily detected by "spell check" programs. For example "overtime" rather than "over time", "know" rather than "known", "at they wished" rather than "as they wished".

* Discretionary Revisions
(1) Tables 1, 2 and 3 could potentially be combined with use of summary / categorical statistics. The information presented could be usefully expanded to provide more clinically relevant data about the participants. For example: HbA1c at entry, presence of diabetes complications, previous severe hypoglycemia. This would enable the reader to place the qualitative data in a more definite clinical context

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 have been involved in the DAFNE programme in Australia, but derive no financial gain from this.

I declare that I have no other competing interests