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: 17 June 2011

Reviewer: Josie Evans

Reviewer's report:

This is a long, but clearly written article that describes a longitudinal qualitative study exploring how patients were able to assimilate the principles of a structured education programme for type 1 diabetes into their daily lives (within an RCT). Qualitative interviews were carried out with 40 patients at 6-8 weeks, 6 months and 12 months after the programme.

The research aim was clearly defined. Longitudinal qualitative research is not a commonly used research method but the authors have justified its use and indicated how they were guided to carry it out.

Results well laid out, but some of the quotes were difficult to understand eg p13, ‘that would have been unexplained…’ Discussion clearly written and focussed.

Implications for practice have been identified.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Title needs a reference to the study design
2. Use correct headings for each section to conform with BMC guidelines
3. P6, 1st para – reference missing? Last sentence needs correction.
4. Inappropriate to have separate section on Study limitations – should be covered, in more depth, in Discussion

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Consider combining Tables 1,2,3
2. The literature review section is very long. Could narrow down to literature focussing on type 1 diabetes only.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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