Reviewer’s report

Title: Community hospitals - The place of local service provision in a modernising NHS: An integrative thematic literature review

Version: 1 Date: 29 October 2006

Reviewer: Chris Ham

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is an interesting paper on a topical subject.
Overall, the paper is based on sound methods and is clearly written.
My main comments relate to the length and ordering of the paper.
I felt the paper was longer than the strength of the material on which is is based warranted. The authors should edit the paper to cut its length, say by about a quarter, to make the argument flow more easily.
Specifically, where their review found little or no evidence on a particular theme, then this should be simply.
There is no need to add further comment or speculation, as is sometimes the case at present.

I also felt the order of the paper could be revised with advantage. For example, I would have found it helpful if the section on 'The place of CHs in health care provision' (p.11) had come much earlier in the paper as it provides context for some of the other analysis.

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

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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)

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What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare I have no competing interests