Reviewer’s report

Title: Does a self-referral counselling program reach doctors in need of help? A comparison with the general Norwegian doctor workforce.

Version: 2 Date: 18 January 2007

Reviewer: Donald Girard

Reviewer’s report:

Finally I have only Discretionary Revisions and Minor Revisions to recommend. All of the below fall into one or the other category:

- page 2, second sentence, “deleterous” should be spelled deleterious;
- page 2, the term “low threshold” is used often, and I have an opinion of its meaning, but am not certain. I would select another term that communicates the intent more clearly;
- page 2, first line, “Sana-doctors displayed a higher degree of emotional-, symptoms- and job distress” I am unfamiliar with the syntax as used. Do they mean negative emotions, depressive and or anxious symptoms and stress in their jobs? I would ask that the authors explain their wording;
- page 3, first line. Deleterous should be spelled deleterious;
- page 4, questions section. The authors pose one question that is only answered to a degree and not commented on more. That is: “To what degree did they seek help before coming to Villa Sana?” If the authors have more information about this question, it should be addressed.
- page 4, the authors note that two types of intervention are offered at Villa Sana, but they do not distinguish how many physicians chose one or the other. It may not be very important for this study, but might for future ones that evaluate outcome;
- page 9, the term “professional identity” is used often and one can guess at the meaning, but it is not clear. Could the authors qualify the term so that this descriptor is well defined?;
- page 10, third line: the authors write: “Data indicate that three out of four doctors coming to Villa Sana could be in need of treatment”. Could the authors state that more clearly? Given the levels of stress reported by those doctors, would not one be able to recommend treatment, rather than to state only that there might be a need?

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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.