Reviewer's report

Title: Breast and Bowel Cancer Screening Uptake Patterns over Time in UK South Asian Ethnic Minority Populations Corrected for Differences in Socio-demographic Characteristics

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2008

Reviewer: Lin Fritschi

Reviewer’s report:

This paper is much improved.

Major compulsory revisions.

Tables 1 2 and 3 appear to show the results of 5 models, but the results from each model are split across 3 tables. It would be more usual to show the results of one model in one table. Since the models for different rounds are so similar, I would advise having results for one of the models predicting uptake for one of the breast screening rounds in one table, and one model predicting uptake for one of the bowel screening rounds in a second table. The text could then explain that the ORs were similar for the other rounds. Thus in table 1 we could see the ORs for 1 round of breast screening, for age, deprivation and ethnicity, adjusted for each other. ORs and 95% CIs only need two decimal points.

Minor Essential Revisions.

The abstract should be written in full sentences.

Figures 3 and 4. Since the main comparison is between Asian and non-Asian subjects, these figures would be easier to interpret if the rounds had the same point marker but were different shades for the ethnic groups. For example, make the point markers for the round 1 both square with different shades of grey for the point markers and lines for the Asian and non-Asian groups.

Can the two breast screening figures within figure 4 be combined? Or could one group be omitted?

The use of the word "irregular" to describe breast screening results is not clear. More common terms are "abnormal" or "positive".

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 declare that I have no competing interests.