Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychosocial risk factors for hospital readmission in COPD patients on early discharge schemes: a cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2011

Reviewer: Kevin Gruffydd-Jones

Reviewer’s report:

1. The aim of the study is clear i.e do psychosocial factors affect hospital readmission after early discharge from hospital with an acute exacerbation of COPD.

2. The methodology is clear but I have some major queries on this (see below) and some minor queries regarding the results presentation.

3. The Conclusion in the main text is not entirely consistent with the results and states "...socioeconomic status predict readmissions for AECOPD" In fact only one aspect of socioeconomic status is linked to readmission house ownership. The negative findings are also important i.e the degree of social support is not linked to readmission. Significant negative findings such as this. also need to be stated in the Results section of the abstract and acknowledged in the Conclusion.

4. In addition the conclusion states that work should be done evaluating the work of nurse led schemes post discharge. Given that evidence quoted in the text states that nurse led case management hasn't been proven to be effective in preventing readmission maybe the phrase 'nurse led " should be removed and substituted with 'community schemes'"?

One small omission in the discussion is the limitation that this study only applies to patients after early discussion and brief mention should be made about work done in patients discharged after admission not necessarily linked to early discharge.

So"Major revisions/questions to be considered"

1. Please justify the use of a questionnaire (ESSI) which has not been validated in the disease area under study?

2. Please justify calculation of the power of the study on an apparently secondary endpoint (SGRQ) 3. Please alter the "results " section in the abstract and "conclusions " section in the abstract and main text to more accurately reflect the actual results (see point 3 above)

Minor revision / Question.

In the table of results on page 7 it is not clear whether the "p" value quoted refers to the difference between parameters on the same line i.e non-admitted v admitted patients or to differences between adjacent vertical
values e.g the number readmitted in the home owner v non-home owner group. Please clarify on the table.