Reviewer's report

Title: What does standard rehabilitation practice after total hip replacement in the UK entail? A mixed qualitative and quantitative study.

Version: 3 Date: 11 February 2013

Reviewer: Esther Williamson

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions

Introduction - you still need a reference for the section on page 5 for the most commonly used rehabilitation regimes for older people.

Some headings in the methods section would make it easier to follow e.g. questionnaire development, sampling of participants, analysis.

The extra information about the focus group is very helpful. However, I do not think that this paper should be titled a qualitative and quantitative study as this is misleading. The focus group was a very important part of developing the survey and it should be included in the methods section where you describe the questionnaire development. This is a strength of the work but the focus of the research is the questionnaire and the responses to the questionnaire not the focus group.

In the methods, your descriptions of sampling for the survey are still not clear. You should state where the 171 hospital were identified from (the National Joint Registry) and your rationale for only contacting every 3rd hospital and why you only had 63 emails. I don't understand why you did not track who had responded and who did not respond to your email request to complete the questionnaire. Survey responses could still have been anonymised. Can you report how many of the 63 completed the questionnaire? What was the procedure for following up non-responders?

Analysis - you state you did "direct comparisons in terms of percentages" - what do you mean by comparisons? Did you do any statistical tests? Do you mean that you reported the frequency that participants reported each response (number of participants and percentage of total respondents). It would be helpful for you to report the number of participants giving the response and the % of total respondents consistently through out the text.

In the discussion you need to include your difficulties with tracking responses. You are presuming that the 100 responses from hospitals all came from different hospitals but how do you know this? You state that you asked the 63 physios to pass on the questionnaire to other colleagues so they may have sent it to colleagues in the same hospital/Trust.
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.