Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes Mellitus: Indigenous naming, indigenous diagnosis and self-management in an African setting: the example from Cameroon

Version: 3 Date: 14 November 2008

Reviewer: Martha M Funnell

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper using a qualitative approach to the taxonomy of diabetes by Bafut patients in Africa. The methods were generally appropriate and the influence of taxonomy is an interesting topic.

Major concerns:

Please clarify why is meant by the statement that the participants were "purposefully and conveninetly selected." Given the nature of this study, the selection process is a critical part of evaluating the validity of the results and needs more information.

Were the statements made by during the social drinking portion included? They should not have been.

In the discussion, the statement is made "Given the importance of indigenous naming and diagnosis in self-mangement of diabetes found in this study." This link is not made in the study results presented. The link is primarily to self-diagnosis, which influences self-management but is not the same thing. This portion should be deleted from the discussion or included in the manuscript.

References 20 and 21 are both outdated. There are better definitions of self-mangement - for example, Diabetes Care 31(Suppl. 1): S97-S105, 2008.

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