Reviewer's report

Title: Out-of-hours palliative care by GP co-operatives: availability, content and effect of transferred information.

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2009

Reviewer: Peter Kirk

Reviewer's report:

This is an important paper and the first that I have seen on information transfer for on call physicians for palliative care patients. As they point out the rate of transfer of information to the GP cooperatives was low at 25%. The rate of home visits after a call however was high 53% and was not related to whether transferred information was available. They state that "when information was transferred less patients were referred to a hospital." Although in the strengths and weaknesses section they state that they could not determine whether the relation between less hospital referrals and information transfer is conclusively positive. It would be helpful if they could expand on this as it is such an important component to the paper. Some comments on future research would be helpful.

There are some minor spelling mistakes and some duplication which can be easily corrected which I judge to be minor essential 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