Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 14 July 2009

Reviewer: Cathy Shipman

Reviewer’s report:

Minor essential revisions

If I understand correctly, the abstract should say that information was transferred by GPs on 25.5% of palliative care patient calls to the co-op: not 25.5% of GPs' palliative care patients (most would not have made a call).

In table 4, numbers are required for each subsection under Information Transferred in order for the reader to understand the percentages.

Just a couple of points to think about - if GPs transfer information about all palliative care patients, this will need constant updating as symptoms change - and it is understandable perhaps why they don’t and it more often occurs in the terminal phase. One reason for lack of diagnosis and info transfer for the oldest patients maybe the complexity of conditions and comorbidities.

Is it essential that this manuscript be seen by an expert statistician?

Unsure about statistical review

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests