Reviewer's report

Title: Mammography screening: views from women and primary care physicians in Crete

Version: 2 Date: 10 April 2008

Reviewer: Marvella Ford

Reviewer's report:

Manuscript Title: Mammography Screening: Views from Women and Primary Care Physicians in Crete

Major Compulsory Revisions

The study focuses on an important topic: Perceptions of mammography screening among women and primary care physicians in Crete, Greece. The authors have been somewhat responsive to the previous critique. For example, it is not entirely clear that the previous questions related to the effect of socioeconomic status on the study outcomes have been adequately addressed.

Also, the study focuses on a rural population, yet little attention is paid to some of the barriers to screening experienced by rural populations.

A more pressing concern is the fact that the authors only briefly mention a conceptual framework on page 6. The framework does not appear to be adequately developed or well described.

It is not clear whether predisposing vs. enabling factors, which are part of the briefly-mentioned conceptual framework used by the authors, would differentially influence mammography screening for women in rural vs. urban areas. Also, the extent to which the conceptual framework encompasses different types of health systems is unclear. It is also not clear how knowledge, attitudes, and perceived practices, which are described by the authors in relation to mammography screening, fit into the conceptual framework.

It is also not clear how, specifically, the research questions were guided by the conceptual framework. Also, the results and discussion section do not seem to be classified according to the components of the conceptual framework.

In Table 1, it is not clear whether “Weekly Income” refers to weekly personal income or to weekly household income. It would be helpful if the major outcome variable, reported use of mammography, were listed as a category at the top of the table so that readers could see the number and percentage of people in different age, marital status, education, and income groups who reported use of mammography. Table 1 only includes the “ns” and does not include percentages.
Table 2 is difficult to read and interpret in its current form. Why does “Number of physicians” appear 3 different times in row 1 of Table 2?

Minor Essential Revision
In Table 1, “Highe education” could be replaced by “Higher education”.

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.