Reviewer’s report

Title: New perspectives on patient expectations of treatment outcomes: results from qualitative interviews with patients seeking complementary and alternative medicine treatments for chronic low back pain

Version: 1 Date: 23 April 2014

Reviewer: Johanna Hok

Reviewer’s report:

I thank the authors for a very interesting and well written paper! The paper addresses an important issue in need for an in-depth analysis such as provided here.

The methodology is well suited for the aim, rigorous and well described. The analysis and the presented results are convincing with a high level of trustworthiness. Limitations are addressed properly.

I have no hesitation to recommend this paper for publication. My comments are hence only of discretionary kind:

- In general the methodology is very well described. However, I'm not sure what conceptual framework the authors are referring to when drafting the coding scheme. It would certainly be helpful with some reference to what background data the authors' are referring to here.

- In the discussion, it would have been interesting to also add the perspective of other health problems where this issue also has been studied, e.g. cancer and the publications of Arthur Frank (The Wounded Storyteller etc).

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.