Reviewer's report

Title: The Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) by African American (AA) and Caucasian American (CA) Elders in a Rural Setting: a Descriptive, Comparative Study

Version: 3 Date: 7 November 2003

Reviewer: rebecca rees

Reviewer's report:

General

The author has provided further detail about aspects of their recruitment and sampling procedure.

I would recommend strongly that further sentences, structured as follows, are added to the first paragraph of the methods (following 2nd sentence):
1) At these meetings, a total of 378 participants were asked to indicate whether or not they had used CAM. This was done as follows: [add text to indicate how did researchers define CAM at this point? were participants asked to indicate whether they had ever used CAM or whether they had used CAM within a narrower recent time period?]
2) Participants who indicated that they had used CAM were then invited to participate in a survey of this use.

I suggest removing the actual number of the CAM using sample from this paragraph.

The results still require clarification. The 49% rate presented in the results remains potentially confusing. The author's response to my review suggests that this section simply needs to state, "Of the 378 workshop participants, 183 indicated that they had used CAM. All of these 183 volunteered to participate in this survey and returned completed questionnaires."

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

What next?: Accept after minor compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
none

n.b. this is my response to revised document