Reviewer’s report

Title: A gap between acceptance and knowledge of herbal remedies by physicians: The need for educational intervention

Version: 1 Date: 23 August 2005

Reviewer: m frenkel

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General
It is an interesting report, even though it relates to a very specific location it touches on a universal issue that physicians need better education on CAM in general. The author should have elaborated more on the cultural difference that allows physicians in the Caribbean to have high acceptance of herbal use and at the same time have poor knowledge about the herbs. Some specifics: In the background the authors fail to document what are the few studies that report on knowledge and attitude of physicians related to herbal medicine. The authors should have cited other references that document educational initiatives related to herbal medicine and the change in those attitudes due to educational intervention. (Frenkel, Ben Arye 2004) The postulation at the end of the background section probably should have been moved and discussed in the discussion. The extent of the study covering 20% of physicians are definitely an interesting factor emphasizing the effort that went into this work. It would have been an interesting addition to compare the physicians knowledge and acceptance of herbal medicine, to the general population in Trinidad, if there is any knowledge about it. The discussion as well as the introduction needs to be tightened up and shorter, so reader will stay on track....

It is an interesting study that probably should be published with the above revisions.

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

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)