Reviewer's report

Title: Decisions to use complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) by male cancer patients: information-seeking roles and types of evidence used

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2007

Reviewer: Janet Richardson

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper addresses and under-researched area, that of the use of complementary therapies by male cancer patients. By using a qualitative approach it provides an in-depth view of how men with cancer access and use information about complementary therapies. It questions assumptions about the increasing use of the Internet for healthcare information. However the limited use of the Internet in this particular group may not be typical of cancer patients in general and requires further investigation. The study emphasises the difference between 'proactive information seekers' and 'passive recipients' and the relationships between this behaviour and the use of complementary therapy which is new and insightful. Also of particular interest is the emphasis the men in this study placed on personal stories in their judgement evaluation of complementary therapies.

This study has far-reaching consequences for the dissemination to patients of evidence-based information regarding complementary therapies.

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)

I would like to some a number of participant quotes in the paper as I think this would make the paper more 'alive'.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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 I have no competing interests