Reviewer's report

Title: Use of complementary and alternative medicine and self-tests by coronary heart disease patients.

Version: 1 Date: 21 December 2007

Reviewer: Robert T Mathie

Reviewer's report:

The paper provides helpful information on the typical use of CAM and self-management of health issues by coronary heart disease patients. The manuscript is clear and informative, though some minor deficiencies of text and data presentation should be rectified:

Page 6, last line: It needs to be explained which group data were analysed by t-test.

Page 7, Patient characteristics: Last sentence would read better as: "Similar numbers of patients were referred to home and to hospital cardiac rehabilitation programmes."

Page 7, Self-management: I'm not certain if the number using CAM was 39 or 34.

Page 8, end of first para: Each of the six main themes could be itemised numerically.

Page 8, Attitudes to health and CAM: Table 2 shows that for 3 of 8 scales, the mean score was greater...(P<0.05). For the fourth scale that showed statistically significant data, changes were in the opposite direction. These points should be stated more clearly. Also, a comment should be inserted about the findings for scale 6.

Page 12: first sentence: The directions of predictor influences are not stated clearly.

Page 12, Conclusion: line 4: "most popular" should be "more popular".

Reference 39: Last-page number to be inserted.

Tables 2 and 4: The use of "ns" is not acceptable. Precise P-values should be inserted. Other, significant, P-values may be highlighted in a suitable way.

Table 3: Units of measurement need to be clarified. Number and precision of significant figures must be addressed throughout.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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 that I have no competing interests.

Robert T Mathie