Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 15 January 2008

Reviewer: Wadie Najm

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Data should be rechecked and verified: are CAM users 39 or 34?
2) Information about the population surveyed and their comparison to the general UK population should be made, if conclusions can be drawn.
3) Given the weakness of the CAM data and the absence of information about over-the-counter products and other Mind-Body techniques (which are the predominant forms used as reported in other studies), the authors should consider limiting this report to self-test kits only and discard the CAM data.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1) Background Paragraph 2 Sentence: Evidence is increasing to support the efficacy of CAM, notably herbal medicine, for cardiovascular problems [7, 8], although the potential for adverse reactions with orthodox CHD medication has been reported [9, 10].

This sentence is unclear! What is the relationship between efficacy of CAM therapies and adverse reaction of orthodox medicine?

- Discretionary Revisions

Table 3 does not add information to the paper, the data can be provided in the text.

Table 4: a) provide the number (N) for each group; b) what is the difference between Self-Management users (I presume includes CAM users) and Home Test Kits? The information provided here can also be discussed in the text, no added benefit from the table.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests' below