Reviewer’s report

Title: Issues and challenges in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular risk factors: assessing the needs of cardiologists

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2008

Reviewer: Daniel D Duffy

Reviewer’s report:

The authors must revise the manuscript to reference the graphic materials. These do not have legends and titles and are difficult to place in the manuscript. The conclusion that the cardiologists lacked communication skills is not well substantiated by the data although there is an implication that there is some difficulty in this area. The authors could reference the literature that indicates that physicians are unreliable in making self-assessments of their clinical skills. Also, there is a small but important literature about difficulties communicating risks to patients and that should be incorporated into the manuscript.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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’ below.