Reviewer's report

Title: Patients' perceived purpose of clinical informed consent: Mill's individual autonomy model is preferred

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2013

Reviewer: John Fromson

Reviewer's report:

1. This report makes no mention of informed consent (IC) when used for clinical trials. Suggest that the important similarities and differences be included in the introduction.

2. Appreciate the transcultural nature of this report, but at a loss as to why the following critical historical events and actions leading to the current process are not mentioned:
   - Nuremberg Code
   - Declaration of Helsinki
   - Kefauver-Harris Drug Amendment
   - National Research Act/Belmont Report
   - National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research

3. While "The main aim of this study was to obtain empirical data on patients' norm perception of the purpose of clinical informed consent. Secondary aims were to explore whether norm perception is associated with certain demographics and how it compares to perception of current practice." Not clear as to why Mill's individual autonomy model is of relevance here. The well articulated and methodological sound survey and interpretation of the patient survey regarding preferences for IC can stand alone and make an important contribution, or as the authors say, "empirical" evidence to support IC procedures.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.