Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 30 May 2013

Reviewer: John Fromson

Reviewer's report:

In clinical care, patients seek care (informed request rather than informed consent), benefits and risks are better defined, the aim of the interaction is to benefit the individual patient rather than patients in general, and clinical care practitioners are more formally trained and licensed. [Not at all sure where these statements are derived from. Need evidenced based references.]

3. Again, not clear at all clear as to why Mill’s individual autonomy model is of relevance here. The well articulated and methodologically 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.

We are trying to “ground” our empirical findings in the various philosophical approaches to informed consent. We think that such approach is one of the strengths of the study. We found that most respondents favored “help patient decide” over other potential purposes of the informed consent process. This supports Mill’s account of autonomy (enable patient’s self decision-making) rather than Kantian account (simple consent) or procedural.

Still feel there is no need to ground the findings, in philosophical approaches, the data and results empirically ground themselves. Kant and Mill are an anoyance feature and of questionable use here.

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.