Reviewer's report

Title: Informing advance directive discussions for patients with COPD at the point of care: A decision analysis.

Version: 4 Date: 19 November 2010

Reviewer: Shawn Aaron

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a good job responding to most of the reviewer comments. However the paper still needs minor revision. The title and abstract need to be modified to reflect the fact that they have built a purely theoretical model. They have not elicited patient preferences directly, nor have they elicited utility values from actual patients. Therefore it has to be clear in the title and abstract that actual COPD patients were not studied- and that their model needs to be validated in the future by applying it to actual COPD patients who are facing this decision.

Major compulsory revisions:

1) Please reword the title- "A theoretical decision model to help inform advance directive discussions for patients with COPD"

2) Please reword the abstract to include statements such as: "our theoretical model follows hypothetical patients with COPD"

3) Please reword the abstract to make it clear that utilities and preferences were not elicited directly from COPD patients.

4) Please reword the conclusion of the paper and of the abstract to state that this theoretical model needs to be validated by assessing patient preferences directly and by applying the model to actual COPD patients who are facing this decision.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'