Reviewer's report

Title: Developing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) for Methadone Treatment Recording and Decision Support

Version: 1 Date: 14 November 2010

Reviewer: Petra Knaup

Reviewer's report:

The paper introduces the approach for an Electronic Health Record incorporating decision support functions for patients treated with Methadone in Ireland. As standards and methods ICPC2, SNOMED CT, openEHR and the problem-oriented patient record are used.

Relevant topic. Nice, well written, clearly structured paper. Sound methods and results.

A few changes might be helpful to improve the paper (minor essential revision):
- The autocorrection function has sometimes changed ‘EHR’ to ‘HER’ (especially in the title).
- Mention the problem-oriented approach in the abstract.
- I did not understand, why it is easier to integrate a knowledge-based function into a problem-oriented EHR.
- Why didn’t you work with the openEHR reference model?
- Please explain in more detail how you handle information spanning several problem areas (mentioned in level 1).
- The formula in the description of level 1 is not helpful and might be deleted. Is really for each ICPC2 chapter a section available in the EHR?
- “Following interviews with a GP…” – really just one?
- I miss information about the state of the project. Is the EHR already in routine use? Who are the users? How many institutions participate?
- Which tools were used for implementation?
- Please discuss the limitations of your approach and compare to alternative solutions.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.