Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceived barriers of heart failure nurses and cardiologists in using clinical decision support systems in the treatment of heart failure patients

Version: 2 Date: 19 February 2013

Reviewer: Martin Denvir

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   YES

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   YES

3. Are the data sound?
   MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION - IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL FORM THE LIMITED DESCRIPTION OF THE STATISTICS SECTION IN METHODS, THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A STATISTICIAN IN THE AUTHOR LIST AND NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STATISTICAL INPUT, THE MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS NEEDS MORE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF HOW THIS WAS DONE

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   GENERALLY, YES

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   REASONABLY SO

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION - YES BUT THERE ARE ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS THAT NEED TO BE MENTIONED AND EXPLORED IN THE DISCUSSION SECTION – THESE INCLUDE – THE IMPACT OF THE RESPONSE BIAS IN THE DATASET, LACK OF NON SPECIALISTS IN THE DATASET SUCH AS FAMILY PRACTITIONERS, GENERAL CARDIAC NURSES, COMMUNITY BASED NURSES

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISION - YES, THEY COULD ALSO MENTION THE PAPER BY LESLIE ET AL, 2006 WHICH OUTLINES THE COMPLEXITY REQUIRED IN DESIGNING A CDSS THAT SUITS THE NEEDS OF THE USERS AND WHICH MAY IMPACT ON THEIR LIKELIHOOD OF USING IT, THIS ISSUE IS NOT MENTIONED AND SHOULD BE EXPLORED IN MORE DETAIL IN INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
YES

9. Is the writing acceptable?
MINOR ESSENTIAL - YES, THERE ARE MINOR GRAMMATICAL ERRORS AROUND THE USE OF THE WORD “ADVICE” WHICH IS BOTH A PLURAL AND SINGULAR WORD, “ADVICES” DOES NOT EXIST, PLEASE REPLACE WITH ADVICE

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’