Reviewer’s report

Title: Practice Nurses’ views of their role in the management of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalitis: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2008

Reviewer: Elizabeth Halcomb

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• Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Given that participants were recruited from practices which had been approached to participate in the FINE trial the reader might benefit from more information about how many interview participants are actually involved in the trial and what impact this has on these interview findings.

2. The methods section talks about developing conceptual categories, however, these themes (which are presented in the results section of the paper) are not evident in the results section of the abstract.

3. The conclusion to the abstract gives the impression that the findings of this study are generalisable to the broader population. I am not sure that this level of generalisability is warranted given that this is a qualitative study with a relatively small sample size that has been recognised by the authors as being dissimilar to all general practices.

4. The background identifies that there “are no previous studies which explore nurses’ attitudes to patients with CFS/ME”. It is unclear if this refers to practice nursing only or the nursing role in all settings. Further clarification about current management for those with CFS/ME would assist in providing a broader context for the reader.

5. Although Table 1 provides some useful information, perhaps it could be presented in a way to make the information clearer for the reader (e.g. resorting the data). Additionally, it would be interesting to incorporate some information here about the ‘degree’ of exposure each participant had with CFS/ME if this is available.

6. Given the lack of relevant nursing literature identified by the authors the discussion of the GP literature could be strengthened to provide some comparative data (p. 19).

• Minor Essential Revisions

1. The reference list needs to be checked to ensure that all references conform to the journal style.
• Discretionary Revisions

1. Given the variation in practice nurse roles and nature of general practice internationally, it might be useful to add a statement about the study setting within the abstract, maybe in the background section.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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