Reviewer's report

Title: General practitioners' evaluation of community psychiatric services: responsiveness to change of the General Practitioner Experiences Questionnaire (GPEQ)

Version: 1 Date: 10 February 2010

Reviewer: Marco Menchetti

Reviewer's report:

This is a concise and well-written paper about the General Practitioners Experiences Questionnaire (GPEQ), an instrument developed by the authors and validated in a previous study. The main objective of the present work is to test the GPEQ responsiveness to change, using data from a national survey involving all Norwegian GPs (however, only data in 8 municipalities in the Hamar community mental health centre catchment area are considered).

In my opinion, this paper provides interesting data: there are few studies that evaluate psychometric properties of instruments for the assessment of GP’s opinions. Mostly, the assessment is made using ad-hoc scales developed for the research.

There are some Minor Essential Revisions:
1) The third paragraph of the background section is partially redundant with the second paragraph of the methods.
2) The description of the GPEQ is not clear; scale scores are described in two ways: 0-5 (table 2) and 0-100 (transformed, table 1, and the GPEQ paragraph in the methods). Could be useful explain this choice.
3) Table 3 (“a little bit better”, “much better”) is not consistent with text in the methods (“a little bit improved”, “much improved”)
4) Results, 2nd paragraph, second line: probably table 2 instead of table 1.
5) The reference n. 16 should be even translated in English

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