Reviewer's report

Title: Response to symptoms of stroke in the UK: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 3 March 2010

Reviewer: Gregory Wellenius

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript describes a systematic review of the published literature describing the knowledge and responses to stroke symptoms in the UK. The paper is well written with the need for such a review clearly described in the Introduction. The methods and results are well described. The title and abstract are appropriate.

The manuscript would benefit from the addition of a brief description and discussion of results from important studies in this area from countries outside of the UK. For example, is there evidence from other countries that increasing symptom awareness or reaction improves outcomes?

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions: None

Discretionary Revisions:

1) the paper would benefit from a brief review and discussion of studies outside of the UK that have evaluated stroke symptom knowledge and responses.

2) A flow chart showing how many references were retrieved, how many were excluded on title, how many were excluded on abstract, for how many was the full text reviewed, etc, would help clarify the study selection process.

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.