Reviewer's report

Title: Facilitators and barriers to implementing clinical care pathways

Version: 1 Date: 10 August 2009

Reviewer: Marica Ferri

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

The article is outmostly relevant and pleasant to read but to be much incisive an integration of information should be provided. The article is presented as a narrative review mentioning and describing some of the most important papers in the field. Nevertheless, as the article states: "This paper reviews the evidence on whether care pathways may ameliorate weaknesses in the implementation of guidelines and protocols by more specifically engaging with the clinical team at each stage of pathway development" one expects the methods for systematically reviewing the evidence being described in terms of search strategy, quality assessment, data extraction and summary of results.

Providing the whole literature about implementation of clinical pathways is included, the useful table could provide references for the barriers as well as those for the facilitators.

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