Reviewer's report

Title: Geriatric Day Hospital: opportunity or threat? A qualitative exploratory study of the referral behaviour of Belgian general practitioners.

Version: 3 Date: 31 May 2010

Reviewer: Markus Themessl-Huber

Reviewer's report:

Background:

The background section now flows well and leads up nicely to the research question.

Methods:

'In order to avoid ‘yes or no discussions’, the French FGDs were organized separately for users and non-users of GDHs.'

Adding this sentence was necessary but not sufficient. Why were yes or no answers suspected? Is there any evidence to back up this assumption? And why was the strategy to separate users from non-users, rather than working on the wording of questions or training the interviewer how to deal with short answers?

There is still no indication of how many GPs were contacted (response rate) and how bit the Belgium GP population is, from which this sample was drawn. While the study did not aim at representativeness (but saturation), the response rate would be informative.

Results and discussion section:

My previous comments were addressed. The results and discussion sections now read very well. The English in some of the direct quotations could be improved to enhance readability.

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 am professionally acquainted with one of the authors, Dr Sara Willems. This relationship has not influenced my review of the manuscript.
I declare that I have no competing interests.