Reviewer’s report

Title: What doctors think about the impact of managed care tools on quality of care, costs, autonomy, and relations with patients

Version: 1 Date: 18 June 2010

Reviewer: Marion Danis

Reviewer’s report:

The authors of this study have examined what doctors think about the impact of managed care tools on the quality of care, costs, autonomy, and relationships with patients. The questions that they have posed are very clear and the methods are appropriate. The data do seem sound. The discussion and conclusions generally are well-balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Minor essential provisions

While the authors acknowledge that those physicians who are familiar with managed care techniques find them more acceptable, they should give more adequate information about the study participants’ specific experience with these techniques.

The authors acknowledge that there may be problems with the generalizability of their findings because they surveyed only physicians in Geneva Switzerland. But they should say more about how we might make use of their findings. How similar is the practice setting in Geneva to other practice settings elsewhere in Switzerland and in other countries in Europe? Is it possible to infer anything with regard to less similar practice settings?

Discretionary revisions

I would encourage the authors to speculate about the following question: If physicians who are more familiar with managed care techniques are more accepting of them, do they believe there might be acceptable strategies to introduce such techniques in the absence of positive physician attitudes?

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.