Reviewer’s report

Title: What stops children with a chronic illness accessing health care: a mixed methods study in children with CFS/ME

Version: 2 Date: 9 August 2011

Reviewer: William Reeves

Reviewer’s report:

It was a pleasure reviewing the manuscript by Webb and collaborators that describes barriers to accessing health care experienced by children with CFS/ME. It represents a coherent and sound addition to scientific knowledge and should be of considerable interest to BMC Health Services Research readership and I believe it will be highly accessed. I have no major compulsory, minor essential or discretionary revisions.

CFS/ME is a serious illness, which poses particularly severe problems for children and their families. I am aware of no published study of this nature. The authors eloquently defined the problem and used imaginative methods (also well described) in their study. The data are sound and well presented. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and supported by the data and are placed within context of the study’s limitations. As expected from authors representing UK universities, the writing is more than acceptable (however, I did find a couple missing full stops).

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.