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: 26 August 2011

Reviewer: Derek Pheby

Reviewer's report:

This is a very useful contribution to a hitherto under-researched field. The data and analysis are sound, and the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and supported by the data. The limitations of the work are clearly stated, and relevant previous work in the field is cited adequately and referenced appropriately. There are a number of minor essential revisions, mostly of a typographical nature (see below):-

Major compulsory revisions: None

Minor essential revisions:-

1) Page 8, final paragraph

Data validation was achieved by feeding the themes back to the Association of Young people with ME. They confirmed our findings and reiterated that health professionals need more knowledge about CFS/ME information.

people should have a capital letter. There should be a full stop between ME and They.

2) Page 14, para.3

Parents sometimes found their GPs and paediatricians attempts to give information (even if they knew something about the condition) wasn’t always helpful, or wasn’t given in a way they could understand or put it into practice.

GPs and paediatricians should have apostrophes, i.e. GPs’ and paediatricians’. Wasn’t, in both cases, should be ‘weren’t’, or preferably ‘were not’.

3) Page 14, para. 4.

Parents struggled to communicate an illness that wasn’t visible as well as having difficulty communicating a problem that their child, and not themselves were experiencing.

There should be a comma after themselves.

4) Page 17

It might be expected that in an area with a less well-established service, the
barrier's to accessing healthcare would be different ...
Barrier's should not have an apostrophe.
Discretionary revisions: None

Derek Pheby

**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.