Reviewer’s report

Title: The discriminative power of patient experience surveys

Version: 2 Date: 21 December 2010

Reviewer: Torleif Ruud

Reviewer’s report:

The topic of the paper is important in relation to the increasing use of report on patient satisfaction and experience as quality indicators used to compare health care providers or clinics. The research questions are well defined, and the methods appropriate and well described. The data sets used are representative and feasible for the topic and the methods used to answer the research questions. The use of the data sets are done in a transparent way and without any indication of unethical use.

The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data sets used in the paper, and limitations of the paper are clearly stated. The authors acknowledge several earlier works in the field, but have not found any similar paper using a joint method to examine findings across several studies.

The title and the abstract accurately convey the method and the results. The language is acceptable and it is easy to follow the row of thoughts and arguments.

The paper should be published, and it may be published without any major revisions. However, the authors should consider removing the word “slightly” in the middle of the paragraph starting with “The discriminative power..” under Results. It could also be useful if the authors mention the proportion of providers in each study which were statistically significant from others with the methods and confidence intervals used.

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.