Reviewer's report

Title: Development of a community-based model for respiratory care services

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2012

Reviewer: Ewart Carson

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This paper focuses on the increasing disease burden of COPD and other chronic respiratory diseases and the way in which it should be managed in the community. The clearly stated aim was to identify the key characteristics of a community-based service for chronic respiratory disease to help inform NHS commissioning decisions.

The paper is logically structured and clearly presented and, methodologically, adopts the Delphi method which is entirely appropriate in the specific context. Both process and results are clearly described. The outline from the Delphi process is confirmation, on a consensual basis, of the validity of the CCM as the model with should be adopted, supplemented by additional items that emerged during the course of the process.

The paper makes a useful contribution to the literature in the field and is worthy of being published once the minor issues itemised below have been addressed:

1. At the end of the Introduction community-based care is defined. Whilst the patient's home setting clearly falls within the definition, it is less clear as to what is meant by "in a general practice or hospital setting but are delivered outwith what is normally offered". Further explanation/clarification should be provided.

2. It would be helpful to provide further explanation as to why non-respondents in any particular round were permitted to reply to subsequent rounds (in terms of Delphi methodology)

3. The rationale for the range of participants involved is well described. However, looking at the results as evidenced in the tables, nurses seem to be considerably under-represented in terms of the final list of respondents. Given the centrality of nurses to the delivery of community-based care, some commentary should be provided supporting the validity of the conclusions drawn in the light of the dominance of members of the medical profession over nurses in the list of respondents.

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