Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 1 April 2012

Reviewer: Ron Summers

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. In the introduction (Background) a statement is made about prevalence expected to rise "...over the next 10 years." I would edit that statement to provide the exact start date of the prediction.

2. Remove the comma after "Action plans..." again in the Background section in paragraph three.

3. In the Discussion section under the heading "Comparison with existing literature" the sentence structure (choice of words) hat the beginning of the second paragraph is incoherent ("In their systematic review...".)

Discretionary Revisions

1. The method used to gain a measure of the consensus is extremely interesting and provides good discriminatory power between the three stated levels. However, the four point scale used to assess priority is not discriminatory at all - this is a further limitation of the study that should be discussed more fully than at present. Should you or others want to repeat this study for another chronic disease, then I am sure you will want them to address this issue in their study design.

2. The questions posed are defined well; data are sound and presented in a way that helps immediate interpretation; evidence from previous studies is used in a way to support the strands of the argument developed in this paper; limitations of the Delphi study are described well. However, the Conclusion section is a little weak and open-ended - the content should be strengthened perhaps by linking more to the possible transfer of the methods adopted to other clinical domains and further indication of implementation issues.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no financial interests in any form that can be gained from publication of this paper.

I do have intellectual property interests relating to chronic disease management but none of these refer to COPD or other diseases of the respiratory system.