Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing Methods for Measurement of Clinical Outcomes and Quality of Care in Primary Care Practices

Version: 2 Date: 5 March 2012

Reviewer: Martin Friedberg

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: None
Minor Essential Revisions: None
Discretionary Revisions:

In Paragraph 2 of Results, the authors note the variations in concordance of administrative data, chart data and patient survey as related to screening and preventive care, noting specific areas of fair to good concordance and others of only fair to poor concordance.

Similarly, in Results, Paragraph 3 identifies moderate to good concordance between chart data and patient surveys for medication use but notes that concordance between administrative and chart data was less robust as was the concordance between administrative data and the patient survey.

Paragraph 5 of Results, also demonstrated areas of poor concordance between chart data and patient survey data particularly regarding specific medication.

There appears to be a theme throughout the results which is identified and presented in the Discussion. However, the authors have not, in my view, sufficiently emphasized that the underlying problem most likely creating the areas of poor concordance, as well as the means of improving concordance in these areas, and hence patient care, rests in improving communication with patients, whether between the physician and the patient or between the patient and other members of the family health care team. Doing so would bring a much too easily ignored area of health care into the forefront that it deserves.

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