Reviewer's report

Title: Reasons behind non-adherence of healthcare practitioners to pediatric asthma guidelines in an emergency department in Saudi Arabia

Version: 2 Date: 2 March 2012

Reviewer: Ann McKillop

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In the abstract, it is not clear how many focus groups took place: (from abstract “The second part of this study is a focus group interview designed to elicit the reasons behind non-adherence to the recommendation detected by the chart review. The focus group interviews were tape-recorded and transcribed verbatim”).

2. Pg 9 – Appendix 1, questions for the focus groups, is not included. It is necessary for reviewers to see these.

3. The reasons and details for the four extra interviews that took place need to be explained. Were these individual interviews? Why were they needed? Who was interviewed? By whom? For how long? How was data collected and where?

4. There is confusion around the use of the terms “focus group” and “interview”. Are these terms being used interchangeably?

5. It is difficult understand why the quotes used for the last sub-theme on pg 12, Lack of awareness of and familiarity with the PAMP are different from the quotes used for the subtheme: Lack of clear development and dissemination plan for the PAMP provided on pg 11.

6. The discussion section would be considerably strengthened with a higher level of interpretation in relation to the implications and recommendations for future practice and further research arising from this study.

Minor Essential Revisions

7. More information is required about the process used for retrospective allocation of a severity score to the cases in the chart audit that did not comply with the first PAMP guideline recommendation – “Documentation of asthma severity grading by the treating physician and nurse as mild, moderate or severe”

8. The following statement on page 7 is not clear: “Data collected included the number of healthcare providers complying with the following 8 recommendations which were considered as frequently encountered evidence-practice gaps in the management of acute BA in children” Do you mean that these are the 8 recommendations that are not complied with most often. If so, how was this
established? Or do you mean that the PAMP is comprised of these 8 recommendations? I can now see later in pg 8 that the chart audit revealed 5 recommendations not well applied in practice. It would be better if this sentence came under the previous heading rather than under the Focus Group heading.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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