Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding evidence-based decision making capacity at the state and local levels: a survey of chronic disease practitioners

Version: 1 Date: 18 October 2011

Reviewer: Joan Wharf Higgins

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Discretionary Revisions
Thank you for an interesting article describing a relevant and timely issue for the field. I am not sure if there is sufficient space left to include a brief discussion of, or reference to, knowledge translation in the manuscript, but doing so may broaden its readership. There are a few places where the authors talk about KT - e.g., pp. 14, 16 - in relation to evidence/research to practice; increased interaction between researchers and policy makers; translation to 'real world settings' - and a nod to the KT/KE literature may be warranted.

Please note: on page 30, the explanations for comptencies of qualitative and quantitative evaluation are reversed.

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.