Reviewer's report

**Title:** Compliance with clinical guidelines for whiplash improved with a targeted implementation strategy. A prospective cohort study.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 16 March 2013

**Reviewer:** Yvonne Forsell

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting study on improved compliance with clinical guidelines for whiplash after an implementation strategy. The background is adequate and the paper is well written.

**Major remarks**

One of the aims of this study is to develop a target implementation. However nothing is said about development in the results. As it seems the implementation was constructed as workshops before the study started.

Additionally the authors’ definition of the word target in the present study is unclear. If it meant that the implementation was directed to those professionals who were non-compliant this was not the case in the study since it also included compliant professionals.

The other aim- to describe the factors that predicted improvement is well described in the result section.

The paper mostly seems to focus on the effects of the implementation and this ought to be included in the aim. This is also stated in the method section where it is described as the main outcome of the study.

In the method section it is also stated that the aim was to include professionals whose practices were non-compliant with the guidelines, but half of the study population were compliant with the guidelines. If both groups are kept there is a need to revise the text in the method section according to this.

The first tables separate the groups but the analyses are made of the whole group. If the author’s keep both groups it would be of interest to see if the factors for improvement differed in the two groups.

**Minor remarks**

Page 1, third paragraph. Amongst “these health professional group” needs to be explained. Probably it refers to physiotherapists, chiropractors and osteopaths, or does it refers to other allied health professionals to?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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 I have no competing interests