Reviewer’s report

Title: Micro-costing the provision of emotional support and information in UK eye clinics

Version: 1 Date: 3 June 2013

Reviewer: Philip Alexander

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting and valuable piece of research. The question posed is well defined and the methods are appropriate although there need to be more details on the survey methods (see point 7 below). The data appear sound and the conclusions are well balanced and follow on well from the data presented. The limitations of the work are clearly stated. Overall this is a good manuscript although it is a shame that there are numerous grammatical errors, including an unfinished sentence in the methods section of the abstract.

Minor essential revisions

Abstract

1. Grammatical error: To meet these needs some clinics employ an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) but it has yet to be widely implemented and these aspects of care are often missing from clinics. What does ‘it’ refer to?

2. Incomplete sentence: Information was obtained from…

Background

3. …suggests that eye clinic patients

4. Paragraph 3: Word missing: In a recent _____

5. Paragraph 3: optometry led hospital service found that a low vision appointment

6. Paragraph 4: how much ECLOs cost per patient

Methods

7. How was the survey conducted? Postal, phone or email? Any follow up on non-responders?

8. It would be helpful to list the survey question in the methods.

Results

9. There is a relatively poor response rate. What reasons do the authors suggest for this?
10. Full economic cost of ECLO employment needs to be stated in text of results, rather than in conclusions.

11. Eighteen out of the 23 ECLOs

12. Sensitivity Analysis: Word order of sentence doesn’t make sense

Conclusion

13. Cost of an ECLO: It is unclear how the value of £6.15 has been derived from data in citation 11 (Curtis L, 2009). Please could the authors indicate which part of the Curtis report they have used to establish this value.

14. What about cost effectiveness of ECLO? How much economic benefit does an ECLO visit bring to the patient and has this been quantified by other groups in the past?

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