Reviewer’s report

Title: An exploration of how nurse prescribing is being used for patients with respiratory conditions across the east of England

Version: 1 Date: 29 October 2013

Reviewer: Penelope Franklin

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? — the question is generally well defined by the title. However the title could reflect this further by stating that the study is about nurse prescribers perceptions of how nurse prescribing is being used for patients. For example: The aim of the study was to explore how nurse prescribing is used for patients with respiratory conditions in different care settings across one strategic health authority (SHA). Would it be better to state that the aim of the study was to explore how nurse prescribers perceive that it is used.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? — Methods are generally well described, well considered and appropriate, however the evidence to triangulate perceptive evidence is not strong for example this could have been done through the use of descriptive statistics e.g. in member validation, how many participants agreed with each theme, how were the themes tested other than by member validation (focus groups etc)? There might be room for a follow up study here.

3. Are the data sound? - Data relies mainly on qualitative reports and fits with the methods.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? — Yes ethical considerations were taken into account.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? As this is a discussion there were enough participants to saturate the field. Here is generally good linkage between themes and discussion

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? — Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? - Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? - see comment under number

9. Is the writing acceptable? On the whole yes, however, I would like to see more detail around the method, i.e. more about how were the themes arrived at and descriptive statistics to support the themes.