Reviewer's report

Title: Adapting developing country epidemiological assessment techniques to improve the quality of health needs assessments in developed countries

Version: 3 Date: 8 February 2005

Reviewer: martin gulliford

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Under the heading 'Design and Setting' is says that assessments were carried out in 'two separate urban areas in Dublin'. Under 'Adaptations to the original model' it reads 'Deprivation scores for each area were aggregated to form less deprived and more deprived groupings and separate samples were selected for the grouped less deprived and more deprived areas'. The term 'area' needs clarification as two types of area are referred to; i) the object of the assessment and ii) separate elements within the object of assessment. What is the nature of these two separate types of area?

For an international readership the nature and calculation of the 'deprivation scores' and level of aggregation should be clarified.

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What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.