Reviewer's report

Title: The influence of completing a health-related questionnaire on primary care consultation behaviour

Version: 4 Date: 16 June 2006

Reviewer: Anne F Young

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. Explain why a three month period was chosen for investigation.

2. What were the differences (eg. socioeconomic status, education, sex, age, health) between the original sample (n=5784) and those who eventually were included in the analysis (n=3402)? Were there any biases? Discuss how might this affect the generalisability of the findings.

3. Only a small percentage of people consulted practitioners for knee problems. What was the power of this study to detect a meaningful difference in consulting behaviour? Were any sample size calculations performed?

4. The conclusion may be a bit too general: “health-related questionnaires do not affect the standard consulting behaviour of patients.” This particular questionnaire did not affect the consulting behaviour of this group of people. The questionnaire dealt with physical health issues. It is not clear whether a questionnaire dealing with mental health issues may alter consulting behaviour. This should be discussed.

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