Reviewer's report

Title: Hospital outpatient perceptions of the physical environment of waiting areas: the role of patient characteristics on atmospherics in one academic medical center

Version: 3 Date: 27 September 2007

Reviewer: Andrew M Garratt

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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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)

1 Given that the instrument is composed of four scales I suggest that the Crobach's alpha that relates to all 15 items be removed.

2 There is no need to mention the use of PCA twice. I recommend removing it from the top of page 8 (2nd paragraph).

3 The authors used PCA and hence should refer to this throughout and not "factor analysis" nor "factors". Use PCA and components instead.

4 As I stated in my previous comments the results of PCA should be reported in the Results and not in the Methods.

5 The information in the lower part of table 1 is not necessary and should be removed. From Range down to Kurtosis.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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: 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.