Reviewer's report

Title: Motives and preferences of general practitioners for new collaboration models with medical specialists: a qualitative study.

Version: 1 Date: 8 August 2006

Reviewer: Geoffrey Mitchell

Reviewer's report:

General

this is a very interesting paper, which contains lessons valuable to people or institutions planning collaborative models of care with General practitioners. It contains valuable insights into the way GPs think about the issues of GP- specialist collaboration, the reasons for agreeing to participate. In particular it highlights that while these sorts of collaborations are often intended to improve processes from the point of view of the institution, Gps use the opportunities for the development of personal relationships with specialists, and to gain knowledge of a particular area of specialist practice. It highlights the GPs pursuit of competence rather than subject mastery.

It is also interesting the resistance reported when the model selected is imposed on GPs top down, rather than determined in a collaborative way.

Methodology and reporting are appropriate and well described in the paper.

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

none

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

In the para entitled "Positive factors for developing new models of interaction" The para entitled "Understanding each other's methods of working". I would suggest that this could be reworded to highlight that the opinions do not look at what specialists think GPs could learn from them. The comments are all from the GP point of view. The specialist point of view was not considered by the GP answers.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests