Reviewer's report

Title: Does Delayed Measurement Effect Patient Reports of Provider Performance? Implications for Performance Measurement of Medical Assistance with Tobacco Cessation: A Dental PBRN study

Version: 1 Date: 15 January 2008

Reviewer: Mary Catherine Beach

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors conclude that HEDIS measures would over-estimate particular measures. It would be helpful for the authors to address the difference between asking patients to report about what happened at a particular visit (as they did in their study) compared to asking patients what happened over the past 3, 6, or 12 month periods (as HEDIS apparently does) which allows for people to respond based on all the visits they have had over that period. I still think that the study is important and interesting, but I think that the conclusions could be tempered.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. I would recommend consistently putting “ask” before “advise” (in the abstract, methods, and results) since this would probably be the order that it would actually happen.

2. Abstract, Methods, last sentence. Add “of the delayed measurement” to the end of the sentence to clarify what you are calculating the sensitivity and specificity of.

Discretionary Revisions

Abstract, Background. Consider that HEDIS may over or under-estimate performance.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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