Reviewer’s report

Title: Utilization of the out of hours service in Poland: an observational study from Krakow.

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2008

Reviewer: Caro van Uden

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present valuable results from an observational study in Poland on utilisation of out-of-hours primary care.

Major Compulsory Revisions

none.

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods:

1) Please provide more detailed information about the local setting. For example how many facilities are exactly open for primary care? (I assume three, but then the standard set by the government about number of GPs per are probably not reached?). Also the information about call handling should already be mentioned here.

2) The distance to the out-of-hours facility was calculated from the GP’s practice. It may provide a rough indication of the distance of a patient’s home to the facility. Please address this in the discussion.

Discussion.

3) In your conclusion you mention that out-of-hours services in Poland are still being abused, but you do not present the information that supports this statement. Please delete this sentence or provide additional data.

Discretionary Revisions

Results:

How many patients were seen at the out-of-hours facility that were not registered at one of the contracted GP practices?

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