Reviewer's report

Title: Towards an integration of general practitioner posts and accident and emergency departments: a case study of two integrated emergency posts in the Netherlands

Version: 1 Date: 14 July 2008

Reviewer: Caro van Uden

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General
This is a well written and interesting paper confirming previous findings and theories about integrating an out-of-hours GP facility with an Accident & Emergency department. Surprisingly, the authors completely ignored previous findings from the same country about the same subject.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Background and discussion
The authors ignore relevant literature from the Netherlands on the same subject (throughout the background section and the discussion, but explicitly on page 4, first sentence).

Two papers that already describe an integrated out-of-hours care facility in the Netherlands are:


Last statement on page 4 is incorrect (i.e. “…first two IEP’s…”). Maastricht and Dordrecht were the first IEP’s in the Netherlands.

Was there any communication about the change in out-of-hours care facilities in Haarlem and Purmerend to the people of these towns?

Methods
More detail about the IEP and controls settings (opening hours, staffing, size of population)

Please describe the questionnaires in more detail (for example length and
method of scoring)

Minor Essential Revisions
none

Discretionary Revisions
none

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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