Reviewer's report

Title: The Primary Care Amplification Model: an antipodean alternative to UK Polyclinics?

Version: 2 Date: 7 October 2008

Reviewer: Michael M. Kochen

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This is an interesting though rather extensive letter to the Editor.

Although all initial data had to be removed it reads on page 5 "Here we describe .... some early clinical outcomes..." However, I can’t see any outcome data in the paper other than structural descriptions of the model.

Furthermore I miss real evidence for the statement on page 12 "...demonstrates the ability ... to harness general-practice led innovation, improving the equity, access and breadth of local health care". As a matter of fact there seems to be limited experience with this model for such wording.

I would - in general - strongly discourage authors to formulate statements such as "We are unaware of any such existing models described in the health literature...". Have they looked in databases such as EMBASE to support such claims?

In fact the authors themselves have placed a similar though shorter letter in the back pages of the Br J Gen Pract (October 2008). Stripped from real data I wonder about the value of another letter (in a BMC journal).

The following recommendations are based on the apparent decision of the editor to accept the letter as "correspondence type 3".

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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