Reviewer's report

**Title:** Is seeing a specialist nurse associated with more positive experiences of care? The role and value of specialist nurses in prostate cancer care

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 28 December 2007

**Reviewer:** sara faithfull

**Reviewer's report:**

Feedback: suggest major review required

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

This is an important area as prostate cancer patients are a neglected group. The question has been explored by several authors and these have been referenced in briefly in the text so this work is not new but adds to the knowledge base. The question is not clearly defined and could be clarified. The purpose is to develop a questionnaire about patients experiences and the article is much more about the results of this and therefore the detail of individual objectives should be described.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?

The methods are described but the domains of the questionnaire should be described in the methods. There is no validity or reliability of the questionnaire described. This needs containing in the methods. The sampling strategy is also not described. This is important as where patients are recruited and stage of disease i.e. either having treatment, newly diagnosed etc can influence their satisfaction and experience of care.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

The data is sound for qualities however he questionnaire data is not reported in relation to the type of treatment This data is in the interview data sets but not the questionnaire. This crucial for interpreting these results. In other studies those who have most need saw the nurse specialist however this was focused very much at the early stages of treatment not later on when patients had more advanced disease or toxicities. This information is essential for clarity.
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
This doesn't follow normal prostate conventions re stage or treatment descriptions.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
In the discussion the authors suggest that nurses play an important and unique role in patient care, however this is not clearly demonstrated in the data. The data shows more about the ability to access support and gain information rather than defining what the role of the specialist nurse is in terms of therapeutic support.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? The tile is rather misleading as this is not a true comparative study of those who had seen a nurse or didn't more a reflection of experiences.

7. Is the writing acceptable?
The writing is acceptable but try's to combine 2 areas of study. It may have been better to have one paper on the questionnaire with a all he detail and one just on the qualitative. More is required for this to be of publishable quality.