Reviewer's report

Title: Response rates in postal surveys of healthcare professionals between 1996 and 2005: An observational study

Version: 1 Date: 13 May 2009

Reviewer: Kirstie McKenzie-McHarg

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary: This is a well-written manuscript with clear aims and objectives. The authors have conducted a study which has been thought through and their search strategy and subsequent analyses appear to be appropriate. Their primary finding is one of a small decline in response rates in the ten year period they examine; it would be of interest to have more detail reported in terms of the number of reminders employed by studies and whether or not a point is reached at which subsequent reminders fail to have any additional effect - i.e. what is the optimum number of reminders?

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