Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Physicians and Nurses Use and Recommend Dietary Supplements: Report of a Survey

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 7 May 2009

**Reviewer:** Mary Ann Johnson

**Reviewer’s report:**

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

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

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   * Yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   * Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   * Yes, except for one item mentioned in my review.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   * Yes.

7. Is the writing acceptable?
   * Yes.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The manuscript is clear and focused on its goal of describing supplement usage and recommendation practices among health professionals. A few points require clarification:

1. Provide more detailed statistics, if available, on how survey respondents differ or are similar to the general population of physicians and nurses, and whether any of the differences may have introduced bias into the results.

2. Page 5 - add a reference to document that the response rates were . . . "well within the norms for online surveys among healthcare professionals."
3. Page 8 - add references to document the statement that the level of usage . . . "is similar to the level of usage reported in some surveys of the general population."

4. The final statement of the conclusion in this draft, “Presuming physicians and nurses to be knowledgeable about health-related practices, the prevalence of dietary supplement use among these health professionals provides support for the proposition that such use is rational and has potential for conferring benefit, when approached intelligently” does not necessarily follow an earlier observation in the paper on page 8, “Most physicians and nurses indicated they had not received any formal education or training on the subject of dietary supplements, but 75% [I14] of physicians and 79%[I15] of nurses indicated they would be interested in Continuing Medical Education regarding these products.” The authors are strongly encouraged to edit the final sentence to reflect the need for continuing education regarding the appropriate use of dietary supplements for the patients they serve.

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