Reviewer’s report

Title: Frailty in primary care: a review of its conceptualization and implications for practice

Version: 1 Date: 26 August 2011

Reviewer: Marcel G.M. Olde Rikkert

Reviewer’s report:

Major comment
The work is a narrative review and is clearly written.
On the one hand it may inspire to empirical studies in primary care.
On the other hand is is too far from concrete practice advices to change family practice for readers.
With this limitations it is worth publishing.

The PUBMED review is also loosely described with an outcome of 40 papers from about 98 papers which are selected when repeating the search right now. It would be informative to learn on hat factors papers were excluded, resembling the presentation of systematic reviews.

The introduction of the concept of complexity is touched upon, but not clearly defined. This term would also warrant a separate pubmed search.

A limitation of the focus of the frailty term that should be mentioned is that a lot of research, touching essentially the same questions in primary care, is now missed and potentially neglected, which is hindering progress in primary care. Consequently, pragmatic ways of selecting frail older persons, fit for general practice, are thus neglected, while the frailty tools are much harder to be implemented in primary care.

EG:
A randomized study of a multidisciplinary program to intervene on geriatric syndromes in vulnerable older people who live at home (Dutch EASYcare Study).

Melis RJ, van Eijken MI, Teerenstra S, van Achterberg T, Parker SG, Borm GF, van de Lisdonk EH, Wensing M, Olde Rikkert MG.

Finally it would be helpful, if the paper could end giving family practitioners and researchers in family practice their suggestions for the most necessary and fruitful steps to be taken tomorrow in their clinical and research practice respectively?

Minor comments
There are still some typographic errors to be corrected.

**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’