Reviewer’s report

Title: Research in Action: Using Positive Deviance to Improve Quality of Health Care

Version: 2 Date: 20 January 2009

Reviewer: Elisabeth Wilson-Evered

Reviewer’s report:

Congratulations to the authors, the paper is interesting, well written, structured and expressed. This paper reports an impressive and comprehensive study. I have read the revised version and satisfied the reviewers’ comments have been addressed in detail.

1. There is one Major Compulsory Revisions from my point of view, that I would like and I apologize for failing to note this request in my first review. I would ask the authors to consider including the final model of the HLM regression (though may be appended) and indicate a) the constructs studied in the quantitative survey and b) the weights ie strengths of the associations within and among variables and levels. I think this inclusion is important for two reasons. First, in the methodology sections, the authors note that the variables are derived from the qualitative study and, second, the dissemination of findings ie what is best practice was based on these results. I am happy to leave the final decision on this matter to the editors and authors - space permitting.

2. Minor Essential Revisions include:

2.1 "Data" are plural, datum in singular, a couple of slips eg on Page 18
Survey data indicatge rather than indicates
Coded data were organized rather than was

3. Discretionary Revisions

3.1 Nud-ist has been superceded by QSR to a program called NVivo 8
www.qsrinternational.com/products_previous-products_n6.aspx - 24k
A foot note might be worthy here

3. Consider changing the term Heart Attack to Myocardial Infarction, I think most people are aware of these terms if not, it is good to educate by offering a small definition. It may be that the term Heart Attack is common in the US but perhaps it is becoming less common worldwide as audiences and the public become more sophisticated

A note: Heading and text need to be kept on same page but I assume that will happen with editorial publication.

Thank you for your work and good wishes on your publications.
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 I have no competing interests.