Reviewer's report

Title: Part II, Provider Perspectives: Should patients be activated to request evidence-based medicine? : a qualitative study of the VA Project to Implement Diuretics (VAPID)

Version: 2 Date: 5 November 2009

Reviewer: Aanand Naik

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to again review this manuscript. The authors have done a tremendous effort of addressing the many significance, methods, and synthesis points raised in the prior review. The authors, who are clearly experts in qualitative research, have more than sufficiently described their methods in this version. Finally I think the discussion now clearly presents a synthesis of the results into a theory of how patient activation results in changes in provider behavior.

I have no essential revision recommendations for the manuscript at this point.

Discretionary Revisions:

I agree with the authors that perhaps the patient requests literature may not be a perfect match for this study's findings since only one physician actually reported behaviors resulting from direct requests for a specific medication.

We have previously used the patient requests model to describe how collaborative and proactive communication between patients and clinicians can result in improved hypertension control among diabetes patients (Naik et al. 2008 Circulation). The path analysis model described in this prior work is consistent with the authors' current study findings. Perhaps this is a more direct model for describing how an activated patient is more likely to engage in collaborative and proactive communication of treated but uncontrolled hypertension. And then how the proactive communication facilitates changes in the treatment plan by the provider.

However, please consider this as only a suggestion. There are already plenty of other studies cited in the paper by which the authors have sufficiently explained their findings.

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'