Reviewer's report

Title: Embedding effective depression care: using theory for primary care organisational and systems change

Version: 1 Date: 22 April 2010

Reviewer: Lynne Nemeth

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for inviting me to review this interesting paper. The re-order project explored a wide range of qualitative data to define the requirements for an effective model of depression care and how such a model might be implemented in the Australian primary care setting. Depression care management models have been developed in previous research, but this paper focuses on implementation of a theory based model for depression care management. The methods are described in sufficient detail and the data analyses appear sound. My comments are focused on implementation and development of the primary care system which challenges the delivery of such a model.

Major compulsory revisions:
1. Paper could be strengthened by considering the addition of specific recommendations to address the specific construct “coherence” and “cognitive participation”. For example, when practices nurses expressed doubt re: their role, in what ways should this be addressed? Who might develop the skills that nurses think they need to deliver such care?
2. How could reflexive monitoring be developed in practices? Perhaps some discussion on system redesign that might be needed to implement change is warranted. Who should lead such initiatives, and how can these be sustained so continual process redesign and improvement can be made based upon actual experiences within the delivery system?
3. Since the case is well made that system change is needed, more so than individual change to implement an effective model for depression care, more thought in the discussion needs to be embedded on how to develop primary care organizations.

Discretionary revisions:
1. Consider the use of bullets when presenting the content in Box 1 to make it very clear and coherent with less text

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.