Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of the implementation of a lifestyle counseling program in patients with venous leg ulcers: a multiple case study

Version: 1 Date: 1 February 2012

Reviewer: Tim Rapley

Reviewer's report:

Overall, I think the paper is nice. The study is well thought through, complex and generally clearly unpacked.

Major Compulsory Revisions

I've only got two main issues.

1. Earlier in the paper you note that you are focusing on before, but also during and after implementation’(3). In the discussion/conclusion, you return to this issue. I'd like to see more of your thoughts and ideas on the value of the focus over time versus an approach that only focuses on pre-implementation phase.

2. Secondly, despite collecting a vast amount of data – both quantitative and qualitative – you seem to present the reader with more information about the specific ‘scores’ people made and offer less focus on the more qualitative aspects. At the moment, we only have access to a gloss of some of the findings. On really key issues, I feel a little more ‘rich description’, drawing on (key extracts) of interview quotes or fieldwork observations might be useful to the reader. I'm not talking about embedding the whole paper with this work, but rather only focusing on the really central moments (and or, deviant cases – e.g. the nurses that did not ask to take part)

Minor Essential Revisions

Two very minor issues

3. P8 – It currently reads as ‘To measure this, patients were given a self-developed evaluation questionnaire with a return envelope at the end of the.’ I take it that last work is missing

4. P15 – It currently reads as ‘On the other hand, homecare nurses reported that patient recruitment was problematic and they felt they were dependent of GP’s for referrals.’ Should read as ‘dependent on GPs’.

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