Reviewer’s report

Title: Development of a practical guide for the early recognition for malignant melanoma of the foot and nail unit for podiatrists.

Version: 1 Date: 23 July 2010

Reviewer: Kate Springett

Reviewer’s report:

A well referenced paper. although I have indicated "accept after discretionary revisions", I do feel that a little more information about melanoma, the acronyms that are relevant would make this a considerably more useful (and therefore read) paper.

Discretionary revisions:

1. Is mention of amelanocytic melanoma appropriate?

2. As this is an international journal, would mention of some other Govts’ and countries’ policies be appropriate to include?

3. Some clarification of the oncology input mentioned would be useful. This is mentioned in the abstract but not particularly obvious within the paper.

4. The information about the consultation noted at the end of the results section could be expanded to explain what was undertaken and why, as well as expanding the outcomes of the consultation perhaps.

5. Further information about the methods used (even though there is reference to the NICE system) would be helpful and useful for readers too lazy to access the web, or perhaps more charitably are distant from internet access when reading the paper.

6. It would be useful to know more about the proposed new acronym noted in the results section and more about the existing nail acronym.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests