Reviewer's report

Title: Quantifying the reduction in general practitioner referral rates from participation in joint teleconsultations: a discrete choice experiment.

Version: 3
Date: 22 November 2014

Reviewer: Walter Cullen

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1. While their intent is clear, the authors do not explicitly state the overarching aim and specific objectives.
2. Background: the link between joint consultations and rationale for using DCE is not clearly stated.
3. Background: a more clearly stated articulation of the gaps in knowledge and how the work addressed these should be included.
4. Methods: some additional detail on the context in which the work has been conducted, and especially the tele / joint consultations might be included.
6. Methods: Citation 25 and beyond are missing from the lit review.
7. Results: The 7% response rate is a major weakness of the study. At a minimum, the authors should indicate how representative the respondents were of family physicians nationally.
8. Results: That only 11 respondents had participated in the intervention limits the relevance of the findings to the paper title.

- Minor Essential Revisions

9. Background: some further detail on the teleconsultations, and their coverage, might be included.
10. Discussion: might usefully discuss how the findings relate to other literature; the reduction in referral for patients with melanoma is not discussed at all and this is perhaps the most important finding.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

Are adequate