Reviewer’s report

Title: On the edges of medicine – a qualitative study on the function of complementary, alternative, and non-specific therapies in handling therapeutically indeterminate situations

Version: 1 Date: 14 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Gareth Drake

Reviewer's report:

This draft was a pleasure to read. Very interesting and clinically relevant. Once published I would hope with permission of the authors to share it among colleagues in the team I work in as we work with Medically Unexplained Symptoms in primary care and it is very pertinent to our work. Thanks.

pg 3
line 38 A In a survey - delete A

pg 11
line 11 effect not effects?

pg 16
line 9 particularly responsible - in the context of the article does ‘particularly responsible' mean 'more responsible than...' those who saw their task as working within the confines of a medical model? This is interesting in terms of the extra emotional and relational workload these more permeable staff are taking on compared to their colleagues in the same team

pg 19 line 40
the broad of CAM - word missing?

Discussion is quite long - if any shortening needed could attempt be made to condense comparisons to existing literature?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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