Reviewer’s report

Title: The experiences of Healing Therapy in Individuals with Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

Version: 3  Date: 21 January 2015

Reviewer: Maria Arman

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting, well conducted and well written study. I recommend it for publication, but I have some major and a few minor comments and advice that can improve the article.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The interview guide is according to qualitative method very structured and leading. How open was the interview. May be discussed critically as a limitation.

2. Table 1 contains too much information. I care about the participant’s integrity. Trial arm is not of interest here. I suggest a summary of this in a new table with sex, age, condition and social for the group.

Minor Essential Revisions

3. Abstract: Add aim in the abstract, also remove ages in abstract. What is meant by “universal experiences” written in the abstract? Add therapeutic touch among keywords.

4. Context: It is confusing when you do not know the context. What is “secondary care settings”? Can the context be better reported?

5. Method: Who made the interviews and where? How long were they, were they written verbatim?

6. The table 2 is hard to understand, please try to explain better if this table attempt at disclose the analysis process.

7. The presentation of the results is made with three themes that sort out different contents. In my understanding of content analysis, themes rather present a summary of the content. eg. what was the understanding and expectations of healing. Could then be summarized as: variations of skeptical ignorant open and hopeful expectations. Please try if this makes the result more illustrative.

8. The tables 3-5 are in my view unnecessary. It is unclear if the tables contain all the quotes, but I suggest, however, that they are reworked to tables with only a few examples from the data.

9. Please remove names of hospitals and town.

10. The title is confusing? I should prefer experiences of healing therapy. Also the word “individuals” I title since “patients” is used in the text.
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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.