Reviewer's report

Title: Implementing a care pathway for elderly patients, a comparative qualitative process evaluation in primary care

Version: 2 Date: 1 November 2014

Reviewer: Roberto Forero

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript of a qualitative component of a study exploring the implementation of a care pathway for elderly patients in Norway.

Before the article can be accepted, there are some minor essential points requiring clarification.

1. The normalization process theory was mentioned in the abstract but it has not been clarified in the methods. The authors need to include the definition and the rational for using this theory in the methods section.

2. Is not clear how this study is fitted within the RCT. In the abstract the authors indicated "the effect of the pathway will be investigated in a cluster RCT." However later in the study the authors mention the implementation in the past tense. This needs to be consistent and there is no information about the RCT in the manuscript.

3. When did the RCT take place? Is this study part of the RCT?

4. Why the authors have not included RCT data in the study?

5. The purpose of the Pathway is not clear. It needs more clarification.

6. Was this study conducted before or after the RCT? Is this not part of the RCT then the references to the RCT should be removed.

In summary
the description and inter-phase of the qualitative study with the RCT is not clear.

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.