Reviewer's report

Title: A qualitative study of patient (dis)trust in public and private hospitals: the importance of choice and pragmatic acceptance for trust considerations in South Australia.

Version: 2
Date: 5 June 2015
Reviewer: David Pilgrim

Reviewer's report:

This is a very timely paper given the contestation in healthcare policy about privatisation and marketisation of public provision. I have just three comments about the context that could be improvements for either the background or end discussion. First, there is no mention of what happened to the more fundamental critiques of trust in modern medicine (for example put forward by Illiich in the 1970s). His arguments about clinical, cultural and social iatrogenesis are still pertinent to recall in our new world concerned with the link between risk and trust. Second, this is an Anglo-Australian collaboration and so it might be useful to check whether the scandals in the British NHS (especially but not only at Staffordshire) resonate in Australia. Has Australia had similar problems and do Australians pick up on the British news about the NHS? Third, this is touched on but is really important: surely the enforced trust of acute and especially emergency medical care bings with it different interpersonal implications to chronic care, especially with the shift to self-management of long term conditions. What views from the data are relevant to those distinctions? These three points are discussed at some length in Pilgrim, D., Tomasini, F. and Vassilev, I. (2010) Examining Trust in Health Care: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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