Reviewer’s report

Title: The Discharge Communication Study: research protocol for a mixed methods study to investigate and triangulate discharge communication experiences of patients, GPs, and hospital professionals, alongside a corresponding discharge letter sample

Version: 0 Date: 31 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Wolf Langewitz

Reviewer’s report:

This is an extremely carefully designed and well founded research project that merits any support necessary. The authors are to be congratulated to their willingness to perform research within the complexity of a multi-perspective design. I am looking forward to the results!

There is a perhaps slightly cynical reason to focus on the quality of discharge communication, rooted in education and memory research: the recency and the primacy effect. In this regard hospitals should engage in the final - the most recent from a patient's perspective - exchange between hospital staff and patients/relatives: the discharge and its documentation. If this is well organised and perceived as correctly and understandably summarising the hospital stay, patients might well build a positive memory even though (the cynical part of this argument) during their hospital stay many things were less than perfect.

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.

No

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

No

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.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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