Reviewer’s report

Title: Perceived barriers of New Zealand podiatrists in the management of arthritis

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2015

Reviewer: Lisa Farndon

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you to the authors for an interesting paper on an area pertinent to all podiatrists.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please can a copy of the survey to be added?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. It may aid the reader (for those living outside NZ) if there was a brief description of the health care system in NZ and whether there is state funded podiatry provision available to the population and those with specific diseased such as R/A.

2. Throughout the paper reference is made to arthritis including O/A though all the references are for Rheumatological conditions and the emphasis appears to be more on R/A and other associated rheumatological diseases. Could the authors make this clearer in the paper please? An example is in the discussion section, third paragraph citing surveys where specific clinics are not offered for people with arthritis. This relates to R/A. As nearly all older people report some degree of O/A and the vast majority of NHS UK patients are older these patients form the majority of clinical sessions anyway.

3. Results section - first paragraph, this data may be more easily shown in a table/graph.

4. Discussion section - fifth paragraph. Clinical guidelines are discussed, can the authors quality that these are for R/A please as NICE guidance for diabetes is followed by all NHS podiatry services and this is audited by host organisations.

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.