Reviewer's report

Title: General practitioners' evaluation of community psychiatric services: responsiveness to change of the General Practitioner Experiences Questionnaire (GPEQ)

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2010

Reviewer: Peter Verhaak

Reviewer's report:

This is a straightforward study into the responsiveness of the already existing GP Experiences Questionnaire GPEQ, which is, by the way, a very general title for a questionnaire aimed at such a specific field as views of District Psychiatric Services.

Major revision if possible:

However, it is also a paper about a rather specific phenomenon (the responsiveness of a questionnaire to assess GPs experiences with district psychiatric services in one small area).

It seems a good idea to me, to use data from the National Surveys. This raises the question if there are not more examples of changes in psychiatric services in other locations, where the responsiveness of the questionnaire could have been tested.

Minor revisions:

Regarding the results, GPEQ seems responsive on one scale (guidance) which seems conforming the actual changes in the policy of the Hamar Community Centre. However, there are changes as well in negative direction on two other scales for the GPs form other municipalities. Is there an explanation as well? Please provide this.

When significant changes in Table 1 and Table 2 are mentioned, it is not clear if these differences apply to differences between two locations or change in time.

Maybe the conclusion is a little bit too fast: there was a significant improvement where an improvement could be expected, but there were more significant downswings that were not expected. The conclusion that the instrument is responsive to change is only one side of the medal.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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