

Editorial

Quality in Primary Care 2013

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As we come to the end of another year for *Quality in Primary Care* it is time to reflect on our successes and achievements over the past 12 months. There have been a number of highlights from the Journal including articles covering a range of subjects, disease areas, professional groups and topical issues.

Research papers have addressed a wide range of issues including measurement of quality, costs and equity for international comparisons of primary care as part of the multinational European Union (EU)-funded Quality and Costs of Primary Care in Europe (QUALICOPC) study.¹ Editorials include those from Steve Gillam covering the Francis Inquiry following widely publicised failures in hospital care at Mid-Staffordshire in England,² solutions for better patient safety from Paresh Dawda in his discussion of the Berwick report³ and horizon scanning from Tim Wilson in his examination of how primary care should develop to meet future health needs.⁴

Patient Perspectives and debate papers have covered the current controversy on routine mammographic breast screening.^{5–7} International Exchange has covered position papers on continuity of care⁸ and the effect of digital technology.⁹ Finally, I am grateful to Steve Gillam for leading on a series of articles on Quality Improvement Science,^{10–13} which will be published as a book next year, providing a quality improvement primer for those working in primary care as well as other areas of healthcare.¹⁴

Quality in Primary Care continues to have an international appeal, receiving and publishing more articles from outside the United Kingdom (UK). Last year we received 59 submissions to the Journal. These were from the UK (24 submissions), United States and Canada (10), Australia and New Zealand (6), Mainland Europe (16), South America (1), the Middle East and Asia (2). In 2012, almost 15% of articles were from more than one country and this trend has continued in 2013.

Most articles published in 2013 were research papers (33); other formats included editorials or guest editorials (9), articles on quality improvement or clinical governance in action (3), debate (2) or discussion papers (1), Patient Perspective (1), International Exchange (5) and Quality Improvement Science (5) articles. For articles submitted in 2012,

the average time (for articles published or rejected) was 132 days from submission to publication, 2 days to acknowledgement, 68 days to an initial decision and 92 days from submission to final decision. We initially reject around 50% of unsolicited papers, although some of these are published following extensive revision and resubmission. Overall, excluding commissioned articles and editorials, 85% of papers were accepted or accepted subject to revision.

The Journal has maintained its rate of citations with 128 in 2012 for all articles. From 2009 to 2011 over 40% of articles were cited at least once. The unofficial impact factor for *Quality in Primary Care* (number of citations per article per year over the previous two years calculated using www.scimagojr.com) was 0.86 for 2012.

I would like to thank all the members of the Editorial Board for their valuable contribution to the Journal. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to two of our Editorial Board members, Richard Baker and Maxine Offredy. Richard Baker was the Founding Editor of the Journal and has been a staunch supporter during my tenure as Editor. I wish both well for the future. Peer reviewers are carefully selected for expertise in their field, and I am grateful to them for their important contribution to the success of the Journal. A full list of peer reviewers is included below. I would like to thank Sue Bowler, the Editorial Assistant for the Journal, Viet-Hai Phung who has provided editorial support and the staff at Radcliffe for their work on the Journal over the past year.

I look forward to your ongoing support, whether as a reader, contributor or reviewer. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, our readers and contributors, all good wishes of the season and success for the next year and beyond.

REVIEWERS IN 2013

Abd Tahrani
 Akke Vellinga
 Albert Alonso
 Andrew McClure
 Anilkrishna Thota
 Anthony Plamer
 Brian Cryder

Chiara Bonetto
 Chris Salisbury
 Daniel Witt
 David Fitzmaurice
 David Haggstrom
 Donald Barr
 Elizabeth Evans
 Elizabeth Thompson
 Gareth Morgan
 Gary Abel
 Graham Lappin
 Henk van Weert
 Jill Manthorpe
 Jo Middlemass
 Jon Duke
 Jon Wardle
 Jonathan Cylus
 Karen Windle
 Kelly Kelleher
 Laurie Twells
 Luciano Drager
 Lyne Lalonde
 M. Carol Antonelli
 Malcolm Lewis
 Mamas Theodorou
 Marcus Streit
 Margie Snyder
 Mark Ashworth
 Martin Roland
 Masami Akai
 Massimiliano Panella
 Matthias Briel
 Maurice O’Kane
 Michela Tinelli
 Moyez Jiwa
 Nicki Walsh
 Nigel Sparrow
 Nuria Farre
 Olga Koslowska
 Onyebuchi Okosieme
 Patricia Wilkie
 Pattie Groome
 Paul Marschall
 Paul McCullagh
 Paul Milne
 Pedro Genta
 Pip Logan
 Randie Little
 Rod Sheaff
 Roderick Orner
 Ruth Sepper
 Ruth Webster
 Sarah Redsell
 Shelley Doucet
 Sonja van Dillen
 Tim Stokes
 Trevor Simpson

Val Wilson
 Viet-Hai Phung
 Walter Vandereycken
 Zahid Asghar

REFERENCES

- 1 Schafer WL, Boerma WG, Kringos DS *et al.* Measures of quality, costs and equity in primary health care instruments developed to analyse and compare primary care in 35 countries. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:67–79.
- 2 Gillam S. The Francis Inquiry: a lost opportunity? *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:205–6.
- 3 Dawda P and Russell L. Implementing the Berwick Report in general practice. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:333–7.
- 4 Wilson T. At the heart of change: what primary care needs to address to support the NHS at 75. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:329–31.
- 5 Blennerhassett M. Breast cancer screening: an ethical dilemma, or an opportunity for openness? *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:39–42.
- 6 Blennerhassett M. Should healthy populations be screened for breast cancer? A perspective from someone with previously diagnosed breast cancer. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:187–8.
- 7 Vaidya JS. Should healthy populations be screened for breast cancer? A consultant surgeon’s perspective. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:189–92.
- 8 Bjorkelund C, Maun A, Murante AM, Hoffman K, De MJ and Farkas-Pall Z. Impact of continuity on quality of primary care: from the perspective of citizens’ preferences and multimorbidity – position paper of the European Forum for Primary Care. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:193–204.
- 9 Jiwa M, Asteljoki S and Pagey G. What factors will impact on the adoption of digital technology to access general practitioners in Australia? *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:261–5.
- 10 Gillam S and Siriwardena AN. Frameworks for improvement: clinical audit, the plan–do–study–act cycle and significant event audit. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013; 21:123–30.
- 11 Siriwardena AN and Gillam S. Understanding processes and how to improve them. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:179–85.
- 12 Gillam S and Siriwardena AN. Leadership and management for quality. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:253–259.
- 13 Siriwardena AN and Gillam S. Measuring for improvement. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:293–301.
- 14 Gillam S and Siriwardena AN. A primer for quality improvement in primary care. *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:1–4.

PEER REVIEW

Commissioned; not externally peer reviewed.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

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