Reviewer’s report

Title: Obstacles and alternative options for cardiac rehabilitation in Nanjing, China: an exploratory study

Version: 3 Date: 9 January 2014

Reviewer: Karam I Turk-Adawi

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
A. Regarding lower-income: because low-income is more specific and has clear definition in your study, I recommend to replace lower-income with low-income in the following text: the abstract, Results: Paragraph 3 in "Female, older, and lower-income patients were more likely to attend the educational program", Table 2, and Table 4.

Introduction:
B. Paragraph 3: Add "agree to" to read: "Secondly, if patients did not agree to participate in the standard CR program,"

C. Paragraph 4. Because you now used non-participating, replace barriers with factors in: "Therefore, the aims of this study were: 1) to identify barriers for non-participating in the standard CR program".

Design:
D. paragraph 1: remove the extra bracket in "physiotherapists (Y.Z.))"

Statistical Analysis:
E. For the dependent variable, define it in the statistical analysis (see below) and use non-participation in CR [delete "at hospital discharge", it is confusing].

A multivariable logistic regression analysis was performed to indentify factors associated with non-participating in CR, defined as refusal to participate in CR prior to hospital discharge, or attendance in a self-choice educational program.

Results:
F. First paragraph: Consistent with Table 1, edit this "When compared to patients who did not participate in CR," to read who did not agree to participate in CR,

G. Paragraph 6, insert the word significant between no and difference in "There was no difference in scores of physical"

H. Table 1: Please add to the footnote what P value presents? Example, statistical differences between patients who agreed to participate in CR and those who refused. Same comment for Table 6.

I. Table 2 and 4 (see attachment for presentation of findings)
J. Table 6: Indicate what the values in brackets represent?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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.