Reviewer's report

Title: Diabetes and Hypertension guidelines and the Primary Health Care Practitioner in Barbados: Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Barriers

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Reviewer: Joseph Azuri

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This is a very interesting article regarding the importance of guidelines to the medical professionals.

The guidelines that were referred in the study are quite old (1995, 1994, 2004). However, if these are the most updated guidelines in Barbados, it only emphasizes the importance of this study.

I had a little trouble concluding that the sample was representative to the medical professionals in Barbados:

a. It seems only 17 physicians from the 8 polyclinics and only 12 (out of 87) physicians of the private sector participated in the study.

b. The proportion of nurses from the polyclinics that participated in the study seems high (more than half the total polyclinic personnel and twice than the physicians).

c. Do the samples represent the medical personnel population? (P9 first par refers only to the gender and partly to the age of the private sector physicians, but not to the others; P8 last par is based on impression only)

d. The mean age of physicians seems to play an important role, as the younger group of physicians (working at the polyclinic) as compared to the physicians from the private sector, seen less the dated guidelines (from 1995 and 1998). This makes the selection bias an important one.

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