Reviewer's report

Title: Organisational targets of patient safety improvement programs in primary care; an international web-based survey

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Reviewer: Joseph Azuri

Reviewer's report:

This is a nice work regarding safety in primary care (PC) setting. After reading the manuscript I have a few questions/remarks.

1. According to Linneaus website (http://www.linneaus-pc.eu/Participants.html) it seems there are 11 members from 8 different countries.

The work was designed to include PC physicians, researchers and experts in patient safety. Each Linneaus member was asked to give 20 names of safety experts, meaning a potential of 220 participants for the study. However only 111 individuals were emailed and the response rate was 65 individuals (59%) of 20 different countries (table 1).

2. Sample: Were the answers of the 2 individuals that stated they were patients extremely different?

3. Sample size concerns. For example:
   a. There were 10 individuals from 10 different countries (one from each country), each with a unique health system. Furthermore, about half of the overall GP respondents were from highly urban vs. city/rural areas. Although the authors stated the study sample did not allow a comparison between countries, I would have been interested in knowing how items such as 21, 22, 31, 40, 51 were rated by urban vs. rural GPs.
   b. Certain domains (such as H) can probably be considered more important by policy advisors than others. This domain was scored as extremely important by less than 20% of the overall participants. Were these mainly from the policy advisors group (11% of the sample)?

4. Questionnaire: how was the questionnaire validated other than the 3 expert-fine-tuning of the questionnaire? Was the questionnaire translated to different languages?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'