Author's response to reviews

Title: Daytime use of general practice as a predictor for contacts to Out-of-Hours services in primary healthcare for patients with chronic disease: a cohort study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

We hope that you will consider the present paper entitled "Daytime use of general practice as a predictor for contacts to Out-of-Hours services in primary healthcare for patients with chronic disease: a cohort study" for publication in BMC Family Practice.

The general practitioner plays an important role in the care for people with chronic disease. Previous studies indicate that people with chronic diseases are frequent users of general practice including the Out-of-Hours services in primary healthcare. A proactive and comprehensive health care for people with chronic diseases has recently received increased focus. However, little is still known about the use of services in general practice or of the correlation in the use of daytime services and the need for medical help outside office hours.

We performed a large population-based, 12-months study in the Danish out-of hours including more than 15,000 contacts. From the Danish national health registries we identified adult who had one or more of five selected chronic diseases. We describe the use of daytime general practice in correlation with the need for out-of-hours GP service for 3,338 people with at least one chronic disease defined as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, psychiatric disease or cancer.

We now have a very precise and extensive description of the correlation between daytime care and the use of out-of-hours services among people with chronic diseases, which informs the management of caring for this group out-of-hours, in particular, it has clinical implications for the chronic care provided at daytime as well as out-of-hours.

We hope that you will find the manuscript interesting and relevant for publishing in the BMC Family Practice.

Yours sincerely,

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