Dear Editor, Aarhus d. 3 September 2014

Concerning the manuscript MS: 4784551651316707, ‘Daytime use of general practice and use of the Out-of-Hours Primary Care Service for patients with chronic disease: a cohort study’.

Thank you for the request for further revision of my manuscript. I fully agree with Editor that I did not fully meet the Dr. David Margolius first comments in my first revision.

I have now revised the manuscript carefully according to Dr. Margolius comments. Below please find my response on Editors request.

Yours sincerely,
Lone Flarup

Reviewer 2: David Margolius

Comment 1: I might be misunderstanding the intent of the paper, but at the moment I cannot reach the same conclusion as the authors without any information on hospitalisations for the patients studied.

Recommendation: Provide data regarding the number of hospitalisations for these patients, or if not possible, I may just need to understand better how GP contacts out-of-hours is a suitable substitute for severity of illness. For example, are patients that seek care out-of-hours really sicker? Or are they just the patients that more appropriate use their GP compared to others who may directly go to the hospital?
Reply: Dr. Margolius raises a highly important issue that is necessary to describe with high precision because of the very special construction of the Danish healthcare system. I agree that the text did not describe the important and central position of general practice in relation to severely ill patients and their way through the healthcare system. I have now revised the introduction to be more precise formulated in order to describe that general practice and the Out-of-Hours Primary Care Service are gatekeepers to any further pathway in the healthcare system, including specialized hospital care.