Reviewer's report

Title: Chronic benzodiazepine use for insomnia in the elderly: discordance of patient and physician perceptions

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Reviewer: Fiona Stevenson

Level of interest: A paper of limited interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

Discretionary Revisions

1. The authors argue that patients should be made aware of the risks and benefits of benzodiazepines but they should consider whether physicians are sufficiently informed to do this and whether sharing information would make a difference. As the authors themselves argue evidence as to the benefits and safety of the use of benzodiazepines for insomnia is not available so would encouraging discussion mean in practice the imposition of the physician's opinion over the patient's?

2. In terms of limitations not only has the study not explored the reason for the discrepancy between patients and physicians but they also have not considered the effect of the discrepancy.

Competing interests:

None declared.