Reviewer's report

Title: Social disparities in the use of colonoscopy by primary care physicians in Ontario

Version: 11 Date: 1 August 2011

Reviewer: Carl J Lombard

Reviewer's report:

The description of the ecological variables have been improved and this has solved the understanding of the multiple regression model.

Some small comments on the multiple regression model.

1. the covariates have been categorised for ease of interpretation such as for example median age of practice characteristic. The categories seems odd and arbitrary. For median age for example we have 3 categories 50-59, 60-61, >=62 years. Why was this categorisation used especially a 10 year interval followed by a 2 year interval followed by and open interval which should actually be 62-74. Given this categorisation the rr for the less older age categories are .96 and .97 respectively. Are they really significantly different? This should be tested if you are sticking to this categorisation.

This comment also holds for other coavariates such as % low income ( difference between ,10,10-19?) % of life in rural location (please note that you are using 'lives': significant difference between <1 and 1-3?), %of labour force (<65 versus 65-69 - significantly different?)

2. For co-variates with more than two categories the p-values provided do not reflect the overal significance of the variable - this overal p-values have not been provided and it may be stated in the text that all such covariates in the model were significant.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'