Reviewer's report

Title: Primary care providers' perspective on prescribing opioids to older adults with chronic non-cancer pain: A qualitative study

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Reviewer: Benny Katz

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This issues raised in this study will become even more important with the aging of the population. The manuscript is well written and easy to follow.

The authors may wish to consider:

1. Mentioning the ethical imperative for the management of chronic pain, eg Declaration of Montreal

2. There was a strong emphasis by treating clinicians regarding the efficacy and adverse effects of opioids, however the authors did not tease out the issue of clinician's knowledge about chronic pain in the section entitled "Pain Subjectivity". For example, the quote "there is no physical reason for it, and I think much of it is psychological" reflects lack of understanding that chronic pain may occur without noicception, and that a diagnosis of psychological pain should not be based on the absence of organic pathology, but the presence of psychological pathology as determined by a clinicain training in making psychological diagnoses. The other quote about "If I were in 10 out of 10 pain..." once again shows lack of understanding of chronic pain where there is often attenuation of autonomic and behavioural responses such that the patient does not look like they are in pain, as a patient with acute pain does.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'