Reviewer's report

Title: Medication-related problem type, severity, and appearance rate in ambulatory hemodialysis patients.

Authors:

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Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

Review

The authors investigate Medication Related Problem type, severity and appearance rate in HD patients. Although this is an interesting question and the results are potentially clinical relevant, the paper should undergo a major revision addressing the following criticism:

1) The authors are not clear in what exactly are the goals of the study. Incidence of MRP or intervention testing, both?

2) Overall, the paper is difficult to read. In a revised version the authors should aim to optimise the grammar and spelling especially in the first part of the article.

3) The abstract should be rewritten focusing on the aims and the message of the study.

4) The introduction has to be rewritten and better focussed on the aims of the study. A clear rationale needs to be established leading up to the questions the authors plan to answer. First paragraphs of the discussion can be used for this purpose.

5) Methodology and results: I would like to see more information regarding the patient's sample selection (randomisation process, selection criteria, available population, etc.). How representative is this sample for the HD- population (this sample consists of 70 % blacks)? It is not clear how the study was performed: inclusion of patients during a 10 month period or inclusion and 10 month follow up with interventions regarding MRP. 5,373 patients medication orders were reviewed in how many patients? Were the same patients included in the study more than once? If there was an intervention during the follow up then the reported overall incidence of MRP is biased and I would like to see data regarding the nature and effect of the interventions (pre-post).

6) Conclusion: no data support the conclusion that medication compliance is improved. Conclusions not in line with reported results.

7) Figures: figure two: title: Number of MRP / patient over time, x-axis: interventions / patient?
Competing interests:

None declared.