Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge and attitudes of primary health care physicians and nurses with regard to population screening for colorectal cancer

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Reviewer: Monika Janda

Reviewer's report:

In preparation of a national screening program the authors conducted a survey of nurses and physicians to assess their knowledge, attitudes and willingness to contribute to colorectal cancer screening in Spain.

Introduction: seems fine

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods: Unclear why sample size calculations were performed for one half of the sample, but not the other and also it is not specified which outcome the sample size calculations were performed for. On page 3, paragraph 4 it just states: precision of 5% but not for what???

There is no statement of ethical approval or informed consent.

Analysis: I could not quite understand the steps that were taken especially the modelling side of things and would recommend a statistician to review this section.

Results: I was surprised that the modelling was given much less emphasis in the presentation of results, and that the model (or models? Not quite sure whether this is one model or several) in Table 5 does not seem to have been adjusted for gender, age or health professionals’ background? This is especially so as previous Tables 1-4 highlighted the significant differences in nurses’ and physicians’ knowledge and attitudes?

Minor Essential Revisions:

Results. Personally I did not find the first 4 Tables all that helpful or exciting (and also not very nicely formatted), and could see most of these findings be shortened or presented in the text.

Discussion: the discussion presents new results which were not shown previously, which should either be moved to the results section or removed from the discussion or referenced if based on previous work of the authors? The discussion does not place the results well within other literature and does not provide the reader with clear understanding of the relevance of the findings for the program in Spain, would recommend a re-write once further modelling has been undertaken.


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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'