Reviewer's report

Title: Do Electronic Health Records Affect the Patient-Psychiatrist Relationship? A Before & After Study of Psychiatric Outpatients

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Reviewer: Birgitte Thylstrup

Reviewer's report:

The article treats an important topic, which is the use of computers in clinical care. The use of computers is a growing work method that is being implemented in diverse treatment offers with regards to patient registration, monitoring and assessment. It is therefore of importance to investigate how the use of computers in the actual patient encounter affect treatment relations and patient satisfaction.

The article represents a study with a rather small focus and some methodological limitations such as the lacking validity of the altered research instrument, the use of the patients' primary diagnosis only, and the voluntary sample strategy.

However, the authors reflect well on these limitations in the article.

Overall the article is a qualified contribution to research on the effect of treatment methods/approaches and treatment relations and patient satisfaction with potential for further research.

Major Compulsory Revisions
A more detailed description of the used instrument is needed. For example:
- A description of the original Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire (p. 9, first paragraph, line 2).
- A more detailed description of the alterations in the PSQ, that is, areas covered by "locally generated questions" (p. 9, first paragraph, line 7-8).

Minor Essential Revisions
The English writing is good but need some revisions, e.g.
- p. 6, second paragraph: Here the authors seem to present several arguments for how changes in communication patterns may change diagnostic accuracy. The transition between these arguments could be more clear, e.g. the transition in line 9 starting with "Anxiety orders...". Also the following argument could be more explained, i.e. the "idealism finding", line 13, same paragraph.
- p. 8, first paragraph, line 2 "...are used for select patients".

Discretionary Revisions
- some of the sentences are very long and would benefit in clarity when shortened or divided in two.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'