Reviewer's report

Title: A comparison of patient recall of smoking cessation advice with advice recorded in electronic medical records

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Reviewer: Fong-ching Chang

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1. This study aims to compare recall and recording of cessation advice since this time to assess whether or not agreement between these two data sources has improved. The question posed by the authors is well defined.

2. There is a need to describe how GPs provide cessation services. Are the intervention the same from 2000 to 2009? This might influence patients’ recall. There is also a need to further describe financial incentive for recording of cessation advice.

3. It is problematic that the Patient Survey did not collect the information of patients’ smoking status. The results were not adjusted by smoking status. Since smokers tend to have lower response rate, this might underestimate the prevalence of recall of cessation advice.

4. Since there are lots of reasons that may influence the results, the conclusion needs to be more conservative. The conclusions may not be adequately supported by the data.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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