Reviewer's report

Title: COPD Uncovered: An International survey on the impact of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) on a working age population

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Reviewer: RICHARD RUSSELL

Reviewer's report:

This is a very original and interesting paper. The approach taken and results demonstrate the difficulty in performing such research. Not only have the investigators attempted to reach a difficult population they have then added the difficulty of doing this in multiple countries.

The paper is well written in general and I would recommend it for publication. There are some minor revisions that I would suggest be performed though. The discussion and conclusions are well made and clear. The methodology clear and results well laid out. Given the scope of the study it is a little disappointing that more data is not available when comparing COPD patients from different countries. A more in-depth questioning may have more accurately identified some of the reasons for the differences between illness behaviour and resource utilization that is seen. A breakdown of the data by age may be worth the effort as this will further inform the conclusions.

Minor:

p8 para 2 this would be worth rewriting to improve syntax and clarify understanding.
p8 para 3 line 2 2nd sentence does not make sense. hospital inpatient...
p8 para 3 line 6 "These estimates exclude..." this sentence could be rewritten to improve clarity
p8 para 3 last sentence; need to add that the utilization occurred in the preceding month.

Figure 3: why were the no subjects with severe copd in China?
p12, para5 line 4: missing objec in sentence. Add "studies" after "some of the studies..."

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