Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of Primary Health Care Provide to the Elderly and Health Related Quality of Life: a Cross-sectional Study

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Reviewer: Joan Gene Badia

Reviewer's report:

Paper is aimed to show through a elderly population survey that newly launched units in Brazil under the Family Health Strategy show higher primary health care attributes than the already existing Basic Health Units irrespective of the chronic diseases treated or the social and demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the population. The study is not ambitious, but it is methodologically correct and adequately prove the hypothesis.

Major Compulsory

Paper lack a clear description of the two models of primary health care, as well as a brief description of the ratio of the number of inhabitants per family doctor and other main service variables in both models of care. It must be said that older model was health programme orientated and the new one is aimed to be person centred. There is a lot of bibliography of this issue missing in the paper.

The literature review is poor. According the results, it seems that Family Health Strategy units are in more socially deprived areas that the Basic Health Units. It is known that the primary care units results vary according the population characteristics (Social characteristics, literacy, demography variables, etc.). This topic is a major cause of byass and it is not well discussed in the paper.


Authors must explain why the physical component is worse in the Family Health Strategy units, and provide some international bibliography to support their views.

Minor essential revision

In method provide reference if the SF-12 is already validated in Brazil

Discretionary revision

Not only in China the low quality of life lead to a higher demand o health services. This is an universal issue
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 do not have conflict of interest