Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnic differences in Internal Medicine referrals and diagnosis in the Netherlands

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Reviewer: Kevin Fiscella

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The authors have been quite responsive to the reviews. My only lingering concern (major) is the newly added sentence to the last sentence of the conclusion of the abstract. This conclusion is reiterated in the paper though less forcefully.

Given the acknowledged limitations of this study, this conclusion is overstated. The findings suggest that referrals for immigrants are higher due to higher rates of certain conditions, but further study is needed to establish this.

Furthermore, use of ethnicity in this context is a doubled-edged sword. On the one hand, use of ethnicity might appropriately guide clinical suspicion based on disease prevalence in different ethnic populations. On the other hand, it might evoke ethnic stereotypes that engender inequities in care.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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