Author's response to reviews

Title: Methods to Identify the Target Population: Implications for Prescribing Indicators

Authors:

Liana Martirosyan (lmartirossyan@yahoo.com)
Onyebuchi A Arah (arah@ucla.edu)
Flora M Haaijer-Ruskamp (f.m.haaijer-ruskamp@med.umcg.nl)
Jozé Braspennin (J.Braspenning@iq.umcn.nl)
Petra Denig (p.denig@med.umcg.nl)

Version: 2 Date: 12 October 2009

Author's response to reviews: see over
To: BMC Health Services Research Editorial Office

From: Liana Martirosyan, MD, MPH  
Doctoral fellow  
Department of Clinical Pharmacology  
University Medical Center Groningen  
P.O. Box 196  9700 AD Groningen  
Direct dial + 31 50 3632560  
Fax + 31 50 3632812  
l.martirosyan@med.umcg.nl

Concerns: Manuscript – Methods to Identify the Target Population: Implications for Prescribing Indicators

Groningen, October 1, 2009

Dear Editor,

We would like to submit the manuscript titled: "Methods to Identify the Target Population: Implications for Prescribing Indicators" to your journal.

In recent years, much attention has been paid to the source and reliability of data for quality assessment to ensure fair estimates of provided quality of care. There are concerns related to the type of clinical information that can be used to measure quality in some clinical areas. For assessing prescribing quality, the information used to define patients that are eligible for the recommended treatment is important. We compared the use of diagnostic codes to corresponding clinical measurement values when assessing prescribing quality. Our study shows drawbacks of using only one type of clinical information available in electronic health records, and illustrates when the use of diagnostic codes alone can mislead both policy makers and health care providers about the performance scores of quality indicators.

With regards on behalf of all co-authors,

Liana Martirosyan