Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence of chronic diseases and morbidity in primary health care in central Greece: An epidemiological study

Version: 1 Date: 12 June 2010

Reviewer: Polly Noel

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More context is needed regarding the setting/population to help judge the generalizability of the findings. Although the manuscript mentions that data were collected from 4 out of 16 clinics in one city/region, it would probably not be clear to the average reader how reflective this region is of the country. Are the clinics part of a national health care system? If not, what type of reimbursement system is used? Also, it would be helpful to know how many patients refused to participate (and did they differ from responders on demographic characteristics?) Similarly, it would also be helpful to know to what extent systematic screening occurs in these clinics (or in Greece in general), especially for the 10 illnesses that were the subject of the report.

Not clear why some important chronic illnesses were not included (e.g., Congestive heart failure).

In addition, the methodology section is vague and does not match the abstract. The abstract indicates that subjects completed a standardized questionnaire (or were interviewed?), while the methodology section implies that data was abstracted from patients’ hard copy medical records.

Population estimates may need to be weighted to more accurately reflect true prevalence.

A number of limitations are not mentioned. The discussion seems to assume that the reported rates of disease prevalence reflect true biological prevalence, as opposed to physician-recognized, or physician-recorded prevalence. Certain chronic illnesses (e.g., depression) to be under-diagnosed, and/or less likely to be recorded in the medical record.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests