Reviewer's report

Title: Access to and utilisation of GP services among Burmese migrants in London: a cross-sectional descriptive study

Version: 2 Date: 14 June 2010

Reviewer: Ilse Blignault

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Overall this manuscript is better than the one originally submitted, however I believe that there is still further room for improvement. I have made some suggestions, most of which I would classify as minor essential revisions, below.

p.2, first line of Abstract Results: Suggest rewording as “The respondents were young, of roughly equal gender (51% female) and well educated, and had a fair level of knowledge ...”

p.4, Background: Text beginning “By September 2008 ...” would be better placed at the end of this section (before Materials and methods). Suggest leaving off the last sentence which gives estimated number of Burmese migrants in London as being approximately 10,000 as it is result and, therefore, inappropriate here.

p.6, Study population and sample size: Suggest rewording as “Although official figures cited earlier were much lower [refs], based on our in-depth interviews with Burmese key informants we estimated ...”

p.6, Last two sentences of same paragraph: Suggest rewording as “The selection criteria for the survey required that respondents were Burmese migrants aged 15-60 years and residing in Greater London. An upper age limit was used in view of the higher utilization of health services among older people. For the in-depth interviews, we recruited Burmese migrants from different socio-economic clusters who had lived in London for more than 5 years and in at least 3 different areas of London, to ensure that they had broad knowledge about Burmese communities in London.

p.7, Data collection: How were the volunteers recruited?

p.8, line 4: Should be “rights”. Do you need both England and (London)?

p.9, para 2, Knowledge: Suggest rewording as “Around 50% of respondents had correct knowledge on GP registration entitlement of asylum seekers, overstayers and students with 1 year visa. Only 21% [give correct figure] gave the correct answer to a question regarding GP registration entitlement of migrants holding a 6-month student visa (Figure 2).”

p.9, para 3: Delete “However” at beginning of sentence.

p.12, para 2. Should be “follows”. I found the quotation confusing. It is not clear what medicines were bought (i.e. purchased) in the UK or brought (i.e. carried) from Burma. Is the informant saying that he has treated himself for TB and malaria?
Suggestions for provision of information materials and telephone hotlines on health and immigration seem rather limited. A community-development approach might also be useful. You could cite the recent briefing paper on Health and access to health care of migrants in the UK from the Race Equality Foundation available online at: http://www.better-health.org.uk/files/health/health-brief19.zip

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.