Reviewer's report

Title: The Time Burden of Overweight and Obesity in Primary Care

Version: 1 Date: 25 April 2011

Reviewer: William Pearson

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revision
The use of the term index visit is confusing. Each visit in the NAMCS is a discrete visit. The survey is not longitudinal in nature and stating index visits leads the reader to believe that a series of visits by one patient were studied.

Major Compulsory Revisions
There are many other diagnoses that could be attributable to obesity but were not included, e.g. plantar fasciitis, knee pain, sleep apnea, etc. Please explain why these diagnoses were not included.

A major limitation of this study is the cross-sectional nature of the data. It is not possible to know if the obesity came before the diagnosis of an "obesity-related" diagnosis. This needs to be articulated in the Discussion section.

A similar study using the same data was published in 2009 in BMC Public Health. This study should be referenced in either the Introduction or the Discussion to demonstrate how the authors have built off previous work.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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