Reviewer's report

Title: Differences in the Structure of Outpatient Diabetes Care between Endocrinologist-Led and General Physician-Led Services: findings from a cross-sectional observational study

Version: 2 Date: 9 November 2013

Reviewer: Marjo Campmans-Kuijpers

Reviewer's report:


A cross-sectional study in 35 of the 36 Irish public hospitals comparing numbers and types of health professionals, waiting times, and patterns of discharge of outpatient diabetes care. A small well conducted and described study which gives a good view of the situation in Ireland in 2009. It’s a pity there were no results on numbers and type of patients treated (case-mix). A results table with results on staff training and education, structured patient education, audit and feedback and patient reminder system was added. Abbreviations are now well explained

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes, very good
3. Are the data sound? Yes, as far as I can see. Data on staff training and education, structures patient education, audit and feedback were added in table 3.
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes, but I miss some statement about the shift to primary care in the conclusions
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

There is one minor essential revision

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? Yes, only the first reference of Griffin S. should be dated BMJ 1998 instead of BMJ 2009

There are no Minor Essential Revisions
There are no Major Compulsory Revisions
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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