Reviewer’s report

Title: Type II diabetics in primary care: profiles of healthcare utilisation

Version: 1 Date: 29 October 2012

Reviewer: Huanguang Jia

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This study is to profile diabetes-related and general health service utilization and to investigate the association between the different profiles in order to support the disease management program planning. my comments are as follows:

Major Issues:
(1) Study Objectives: It seems the second objective is really comparing the characteristics between the different user groups.
(2) The manuscript needs a systematic change of “utilization” to “utilizations”.
(3) Methods section: it should indicate that this is a retrospective study.
(4) Health service utilization is not clearly defined: does it refer to primary care only? Does it include medication?
(5) Page 7: “patient and disease characteristics” are incomplete. For example, urbanization was not included.
(6) Was the study approved by any ethic review group? This should be reported.
(7) Results: the results paragraphs are not well summarized.
(8) For Table I and Table II information, a multiple group comparison should be conducted, and the RESULT should focus on the variables showing a significant difference between the different “profiles” or “user groups”.
(9) Discussion: the first paragraph should really belong to the RESULT section.
(10) To this reviewer: this primary focus of the study is on (1) primary care utilization by (2) patients diagnosed with diabetes II, however, the research data being used are not so reliable since “not all GP actions were recorded in a structured way in their EMR” and do not provide the appropriate codes for the different types of diabetes. These major limitations could greatly impact the study results.

Minor Issues:
(2) Page 4: rewrite the sentence starting with “06% Of diabetes type II …..”
(3) Use numbers for all tables and attachments, and change “additional file” to “attachment”.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
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.