Reviewer's report

Title:A study of role expansion: a new GP role in Cardiology care

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Reviewer:Monika Hollander

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors describe a pilot on an important development in primary care, namely the specialized GP, in this case specialized in cardiology. This development takes place in more European countries. Therefore the topic is relevant to those who are interested in this field. Minor essential revision: For comparison with comparable initiatives, it would be valuable to include information on what a normal GP does in cardiovascular care in the area investigated (e.g. can a GP send somebody in for a cardiac echo, does the GP do ECGs? and so on), and what does the ECR GP do on top of that? This is important because not in all regions, GPs can do the same investigations. Including information on this allows GPs in other areas/countries to compare the results to their own situation.

2. The quality of the process and outcomes (change in referrals) are presented. Major revision: If data on the following is present, the authors could consider presenting the type of questions the ECR GP answered, in order to get an idea of what kind of additional clinical questions they answered. How many AF cases, and heart failure, and what was the change in policy? Change in medication? Did the authors assess the policy of the own GP before referral to the specialized gp? (pre-post policy) How many AF and heart failure cases were there in the total study population?

This information is of interest to GP readers of the paper that are interested in the specialized GP role. Now this information is missing in the first part of the results section.

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.