Reviewer’s report

Title: "Impact of ethnic-specific guidelines for antihypertensive prescribing in England primary care: longitudinal study"

Version: 1  Date: 25 October 2013

Reviewer: Xuefeng Liu Liu

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript was written in a good shape. A longitudinal retrospective study was used to assess the variations in antihypertensive prescribing prior to and post the launched National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines. Although the topic has a good health concern, there are a few comments which need to be addressed.

Major comments:

1) Page 4. In the methods section, you mentioned you only included patients with essential hypertension aged 17 years or above. But in the abstract, you said aged 18 years or above. Which one was correct?

2) In the abstract and methods section of the text, need to make inclusion criteria more clear. It is very confusing to say “A longitudinal retrospective study with 15933 hypertensive patients aged 18 years and over were conducted to assess variations in antihypertensive prescribing between 2000 to 2007”. Since this was a longitudinal study and age for each participant changed with years, you need to point out clearly the cutoff of age 18 years or over in 2007 or at baseline in both abstract and methods section.

3) What is the end period of the study? Is it 2007? If so, the end of the study is only about one year after the NICE guidelines are launched. I am not sure if physicians in hypertension clinics could accept or use the new guidelines within such a short time period without further training. My concern is why you did not use 2008 or 09 as the end period.

4) Table 2, look at the columns of newly registered in 2000 and 2007 for younger non-black. Some percentages were not right. Check all estimates in this table.

Minor comments:

5) Page 5 on the top, you included three groups of subjects in the study: black, younger non-black and older non-black. Be more specific to the last two groups (e.g. they included white, Asian, etc).

6) Table 3. The first variable NICE is not clear. Is it NICE guideline? Make it more clear.

7) What does BHS stand for? When you first use it in the text, you should write out the full name and put the abbreviation in the parenthesis for late use.
8) When you say aged 18 year and over, I think it would be better to use aged 18 year or over instead.

9) There are some minor issues or typos in the text, for example, at the end of the second paragraph on page 3, the word “chooses” was not used correctly. Look over the whole manuscript again to correct them.

**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