Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1
Date: 5 November 2013
Reviewer: Giuliano Tocci

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript by Barrera and coworkers described the main findings of a systematic and comprehensive analysis performed on the general practitioners acting in the district of Wandsworth, London, to evaluate the potential impact of ethnicity on prescriptive recommendations promoted by NICE guidelines in different age groups.

The manuscript is overall well written, the methodology is well described and potential limitations were fully acknowledged. The topic is, in my opinion, of clinical relevance, since it provides useful information on physicians preferences and attitudes for the clinical management of hypertension in a setting of primary care.

I have only minor comments and some references to propose.

Minor Comments

On page 4, last lines, I do not understand why black individuals were not stratified into two age groups, as well as for non-black subjects. This aspect should be better clarified.

Do you have any information on blood pressure control rates in patients treated with monotherapy or combination therapy. In other words, the increased proportions of patients on monotherapy observed in the study were only related to the publication of NICE guidelines, or other factors beyond age can be also considered?

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:
none