Reviewer's report

Title: The potential of electronic medical record systems for quality improvement and research in Norwegian general practice.

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Reviewer: Terry J Hannan

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This paper makes interesting reading. The author highlights the difficulties in capturing clinical information when it is not coded or standardised and the marked variability in the quality of the data recorded by clinicians within this and other clinical settings in a CBPR system. Based on this they were able to clarify the limitations of the data analysis. They also demonstrate the power of having available easy accessible clinical data. I found Figure 1. difficult to interpret in its current format. Despite the "availability" of computerised technologies based on the medical records the fact that it is in place (?obligation to use) does not necesarily mean that it is an effective clinical management tool.

Competing interests:

None declared.