Reviewer's report

Title: An inevitable wave of prescription drug monitoring programs: pros, cons and tensions

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Reviewer: Maria Pieri

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Minor Essential Revisions
The paper presents an undoubtedly interesting and actual item, the adoption of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, as an effective tool to control non-medical use and/or medical abuse of prescription drugs.

In its submitted form, the paper presents a discrepancy between the first (“Pros” and “Cons and tensions” sections) and the second part (“Discussion”). The Authors punctually present pros and cons of adopting PDMPs in the first part of the paper, but they do not exhaustively discuss all presented items in the second part. As an example:

# no mention and/or comment or proposal about the lack of knowledge about drug addiction symptoms evidenced in some physicians, who are consequently unable to recognize addicted patients, is discussed;

# no mention about the opportunity of performing a correct information among patients and physicians themselves, about aims and scopes and related benefits of adopting PDMPs, is present;

# the Authors just state (and redundantly repeat throughout the paper) that since we are in an era of information technology…”PDMP will remain and probably expand over time”, and it seems that it is a fact and we have just to passively accept it.

Only in the Conclusion paragraph such crucial items are synthetically listed.
So, in my opinion the Discussion section should be revised and improved.
Moreover, since in the last sentence of the “Background” paragraph, the Authors state that “…the paper will focus on opids”, the title should be modified accordingly.

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.