Reviewer’s report

Title: Misuse of emergent healthcare in contemporary Japan

Version: 0 Date: 01 May 2017

Reviewer: Nao Hanaki

Reviewer's report:

The authors explain problems in emergency medical use of patients in Japan. They illustrate misuse of emergency medical care and discussed solution for them. I appreciate the points that addressed the issues that have not been discussed well.

However, it seems to be insufficient to explain the current situation of emergency medical care in Japan and to organize the problems. I do see the need for some clarifications and smaller corrections, however, and I hope that you can share my arguments below.

Major comments

1: The information about Japanese emergency transportation system is not enough for readers outside Japan. The information about transportation fee or permissions possessed by emergency personnel. For example, they cannot refuse to transfer patients unless if patients do not seem to be so serious condition. These information will help readers better understand the problems describing in the next section. (Background)

2: Explanation about problem consciousness is lacking. Why did you chose these two problems 'convenience-store consultation' and transportation by ambulance instead of taxi from various matters? (p4, l 46)

3: The sentence "Patients must respect…. Becomes necessary (p 10, l32-36) is speculative. Any evidence or example to support this? (p 10, l32-36)

4: You discussed the causes of 'convenience- store' consultation and inappropriate ambulance transportation in the same section. The arguments in this section is unclear. I agree that some of the causes of these two problem from the same point. But, I suppose causes may be different. Please clarify the causes of each problem and show relationship between problems.

(Investigating the causes of emergency medical care misuse as prioritized measure, p 11-13)

5: You discussed possible countermeasures only for patients in possible countermeasures section. You also discussed surcharges and restriction of medical care at the next section. Do you show surcharges and restriction as countermeasures for policy makers? There is no statement
concerning stakeholders about this problem. For better understanding, please describe stakeholders of this problem and countermeasures for each stakeholders, then explain each countermeasures in detail.

6: You concluded that it seems there is no other choice but to rely upon spontaneous ethical motivation. It seems logic is leaping. In this manuscript, you discuss only two solutions, 'spontaneous ethical motivation' and 'surcharges and restriction of medical care'. Explanation for other solutions already done or being debated is needed. Comparing advantages and disadvantages between solutions support might support your conclusion. (p 17, l 53)

Minor comments

1: There is no reference information. Even if the quotation from the same literature continues, I think that it is better to display the references. (p4, l 29)

2: The authors should reference about situation of healthcare facilities in Japan. (p5, l 1)

3: There is no reference information. Even if the quotation from the same literature continues, I think that it is better to display the references. (p6, l 10, 115)

4: The authors should reference for suggesting relationship between correcting surcharges and decreasing of casual hospital visits. (p5, l 8)

5: There is no reference information. Even if the quotation from the same literature continues, I think that it is better to display the references. (p7, l 17)

6: There is no reference information. Even if the quotation from the same literature continues, I think that it is better to display the references. (p7, l 29-41)

7: Did patients ask emergency medical service to bring them home by ambulance? Please write clearly. (p7, l 48)

8: There is no reference information. Even if the quotation from the same literature continues, I think that it is better to display the references. Since the explanation of the cited paper is long, I would like you to summarize the point briefly. (p7, l 58- p8, 115)

9: There is no reference information. Even if the quotation from the same literature continues. I think that it is better to display the references. Since the explanation of the cited paper is long, I would like you to summarize the point briefly. (p8, l 20- 1 51)

10: There is no reference information. Even if the quotation from the same literature continues. I think that it is better to display the references. Since the explanation of the cited paper is long, I would like you to summarize the point briefly. (p11, l 24-148)
11: The term 'should discussion' is misspelled. (p 18, l 12)

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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