Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessing quality indicators related to mental health emergency room utilization

Version: 0 Date: 16 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS: To view the full report from the academic peer reviewer, please see the attached file.

REVIEWER COMMENTS FROM REPORT: This study uses an interesting dataset, and describes an interesting set of patients. The major issue is that it is entirely descriptive, and really just provides information on patterns of utilization rather than being useful for hypothesis testing or making inferences about the appropriateness of care or anything about the quality of care provided. In addition, it describes how EDs are not meeting the needs of these patients, but this is not substantiated. In addition, I find it concerning the mix of medical and mental health/SUD conditions. Certainly, co-existing mental health conditions are a risk factor for frequent ED use, but I'm not sure how helpful it is to tabulate all use for this population and what that tells us except to say that this population is high risk, which we already knew.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
The authors should reframe this as a descriptive paper with clear objectives, rather than looking at everything which is overwhelming and really in the end has no clear message.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
Again, this is an interesting question but needs to be focused and need to stay within the lines with what the data shows. To me (as a physician), elements here demonstrate the inadequacy of mental health services to meet the needs of many of these patients.

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

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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:

Acceptable

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