Reviewer’s report

Title: Uncompleted emergency department care and discharge against medical advice in patients with neurological complaints: a chart review.

Version: 1 Date: 16 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Tuck Yean Yong

Reviewer's report:

This study has sought to evaluate the characteristics of patients admitted to a interdisciplinary ED for neurological assessment who discharge themselves against medical advice. In general, the manuscript has several areas of deficiencies. Areas needing clarification or revision include the following:

- The aim and rationale of this study are not clearly expressed in the background section. Therefore, it is unclear how the findings of this study would influence clinical practice or service delivery in this area.
- In the abstract section, there is no description of the study aim or what outcomes/endpoints will be evaluated. Information about the study period and cohort is also not adequately described.
- In the methods section, the authors have not described how the data was obtained and how encounters or presentations were selected to be included in this study? Were there any presentations which were excluded from the analyses and the reasons?
- The statistical analyses need review because in the main text a p-value of <0.05 was indicated to be of significance but in Table 1, p-value of <0.0015 was used.
- The limitations of the current study are not adequately elaborated.
- Some of the statements in the conclusion are ambiguous and are difficult to connect with the findings of this study.
- Why is figure 1 required when similar data has been presented in Table 1? For Table 1, the heading for the DAMA/PL can be simplified. p-value of 0.000 needs to be clarified.
- The axes of figures are not labelled.
- Please reconsider the terminology "neurological patients". This may be better worded as patients with neurological symptoms/conditions.
- Is "against medical advice" a stand-alone keyword?
- The grammar of this manuscript needs review. There are many uses of the colon punctuation in the middle of the sentence. A number of sentence structures need revision. Inconsistent abbreviations for Emergency Department also needs to be corrected.

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.
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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