Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient motives for contacting out-of-hours care in Denmark: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 07 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

No - there are issues with the statistics in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Overall, I think this study is excellent in many ways. It addresses an important question, and is well designed, well written, and has important and relevant findings. There are several suggestions for improvement: 1) The comparison in the literature is primarily about calling off hours primary care v. EMS rather than using these services directly, which is more common across the world in systems that don't have such a robust telemedicine service, 2) More information is needed about the validation of the survey as well as how it changed based on feedback, 3) I am a bit concerned about the closed ended nature of this and that respondents were only allowed to rank 26 barriers. How are we to know that these are the only barriers? 4) The response rate and non-response bias are a concern, 5) There is a lot of detailed statistical analysis that may make it more confusing for some readers. In my opinion, this sort of work is much more straightforward without complex statistics or hypothesis testing. 6) An international comparison would be relevant, particularly where there are cost barriers to care which don't appear to be present in Denmark.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

The only other recommendation would be to more clearly differentiate the findings from this v. other studies and how this adds to the knowledge on this topic which is well researched.

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.

Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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