Reviewer's report

Title: Feasibility of implementing routine nutritional screening (MNA-SF) for older adults in Australian General Practices: A mixed-methods study

Version: 2 Date: 5 September 2014

Reviewer: Massimo Pellegrini

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

page 3, line 13: a full stop is missing
page 3, line 18: a comma is missing after “digitally recorded”
page 5, line 2: a full stop is missing
page 5, line 18: “that” is repeated
page 6, line 10: “in the patient group”: use “the” instead of “this”
page 8, line 14-15: “;which were triangulated with findings from the open ended questionnaire.” Please check and explain better.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors investigate the "Feasibility of Implementing routine nutritional screening (MNA-SF) for older adults in Australian General Practices: A mixed-methods study."

The 6-item Mini Nutrition Assessment Short Form (MNA-SF) is a validated screening tool that can be used to screen for malnutrition in older adults, a condition that affects a large percentage of the elderly population and that leads to adverse health outcomes and high costs of social care.

On the basis of a study that is mainly qualitative, using in-depth individual interviews and open ended questionnaire in 3 different general practice, the authors conclude that to include the MNA-SF within routine general practice is feasible.

From a methodological point of view, however, this feasibility analysis lacks a basic quantitative information that should be analyzed by the authors.

In particular authors should give the the percentage of general practitioners, general practice registrars and practice nurses that accepted to participate in the study among those who were asked to. The same data should be given for the patients: which percentage of patients accepted to participate among those who were asked to?

This data would give more strength to the conclusion of the study.

Authors should also specify the criteria they used for the selection of the different
numbers of the component of the Practice Staff. In fact Authors recruited 9 general practitioners, 11 practice nurses and 2 general practice registrars from three general practices that were located in a regional, rural and metropolitan area of New South Wales, Australia.

In conclusion, although it would have been preferable to associate a quantitative outcome to the qualitative analysis, the article can be accepted with a major revision.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests