Reviewer's report

Title: Analysis of influences on general practitioners' referral of obese patients in Australia: a qualitative study

Version: 2
Date: 19 February 2015

Reviewer: Sonja van Dillen

Reviewer's report:

The authors developed a qualitative study with the aim to identify factors influencing general practitioners’ intentions for referral of obese patients. The topic of this study is of importance.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. Title:
   • The word ‘influences’ is rather vague. What are you exactly analyzing?

2. Abstract:
   • Line 40: The word ‘of’ is missing before ‘surgical’.
   • Line 45-46: To whom is the information and education directed? Please add.

3. Background:
   • Line 57: Do you mean ‘2011-12’ instead of ‘2011-2’?
   • Line 71: Change ‘general practitioners’ into ‘GPs’.
   • Line 68: Please refer to the original article about the 5As.

4. Methods:
   • Line 93 and further: Use a capital for ‘metropolitan’.
   • Line 101: Provide more background about the number of questions and about the type of possible answer categories.
   • Line 104: Did you train and instruct the four interviewers? Did you develop an interview manual?

5. Results:
   • Line 126: What do you mean with ‘allied health professionals’? Please clarify.
   • Line 127: Add a full stop at the end of the sentence.
   • Line 129: Change ‘factor’ into ‘factors’.
   • Line 129: I do not see that lifestyle interventions are mentioned in Figure 1, only non-surgical. Please be consistent.
   • Line 137: Please explicitly mention the different external factors from Figure 1.
   • Line 143 and further: Please number the different GPs and add the GP number
between brackets after the quote. For example for the subsequent quotes in lines 149-151 and lines 152-153, I do not recognize whether this is said by the same rural GP.

• Line 255: Why do you address correlations in a qualitative study?

6. Discussion:
• Line 321: Please reconsider the wording of this sentence.
• Line 331: I cannot find attitudes about effectiveness and safety in Figure 1.4
• Line 371: Please elaborate on the recommendation with respect to education.
• Line 374: Explain how this better communication could be achieved.

7. Tables:
• Table 1: Change ‘-39’ into ‘=<39’. Also change ‘60-’, and the health insurance categories and distance categories in the same way.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.