Reviewer's report

Title: Self-care behavior when suffering from the common cold and health-related quality of life in individuals attending an annual checkup in Japan: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 25 May 2015

Reviewer: Paul Van Royen

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript – with a clear research question and mostly appropriate methods used.

The topic is highly relevant since increasing self-care for minor illnesses is an important element of empowering patients and better controlling health expenses.

There is a high survey response rate- 430 analyzed questionnaires on 499 distributed- which increases the validity of the data.

The authors have well responded to most reviewer’s remarks and suggestions. Major compulsory revisions have been taken into account.

INTRODUCTION

Minor discretionary revisions

1/ The introduction part could still be shortened making this part of the article more readable

RESULTS

Minor Essential Revisions

1/ As proposed a multivariate analysis using a stepwise method was used. However there is one only sentence in the results section mentioning this item, without any further results of this analysis. Please add a table and/or more figures on this multivariate analysis in the results section- and comment on these in the discussion part.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.