Reviewer’s report

Title: "Blood transfusion in elderly patients with chronic anemia: a qualitative analysis of the general practitioners' attitudes"

Version: 0 Date: 19 Oct 2016

Reviewer: William J. Savage

Reviewer's report:

Le Calve and colleagues present a fascinating study on attitudes of GPs towards red cell transfusion in the elderly. At the core, transfusion is a medical behavior that responds to incentives and biases. This study investigates the drivers of this decision. The manuscript is well composed and written. There is just one major piece missing to the manuscript: an objective tally of the data gathered from the questions. The prose is helpful for summarizing the sentiment of the responses of the GPs, but a systematic analysis of the interview data would markedly improve the manuscript. Responses to each question or cluster of questions can be presented in tables (or histograms) that summarize the responses quantitatively or qualitatively. The upshot is captured in the manuscript, but the data should be presented.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

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