Reviewer’s report

Title: Primary Care Physician Referral Patterns in Ontario, Canada: A Descriptive Analysis of Self-Reported Referral Data

Version: 0 Date: 23 May 2017

Reviewer: Weng Yee Chin

Reviewer’s report:

Abstract: well written

Introduction: succinctly explains objectives and rationale for the study, but does not explain what is already known

Methods: methods of sampling, data collection and data analysis are appropriately described. Simple descriptive statistics are used.

Results: There is only on new finding reported describing the top 10 Medical Specialty 326 Referrals by Procedure

Discussion: Limitations are clearly discussed

Conclusion: appropriate

Overall conclusion: There are no major methodological flaws in this report, however I am concerned about the value of simply reporting one descriptive study finding as it could have been incorporated into another more substantial paper. Nevertheless, there may be some value to having referral rates published so that they can be cited in future studies and for informing health policy and health services planning.

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.

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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