Reviewer’s report

Title: Correlation between Patients' Reasons for Encounters/Health Problems and Population Density in Japan: A Systematic Review of Observational Studies Coded by the International Classification of Health Problems in Primary Care (ICHPPC)" and the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC)

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Dimitrios Kounalakis

Reviewer's report:

- The number of urban settings/studies versus rural settings/studies is small to test the accessibility. Also, is the population density the major reason for accessing a "non-internist" specialist? Why is it selected? How easy is to travel from a low to a high "population density" area with an increased number of specialists?

- Missing type (internist/general practitioner) of doctor in the health settings of the articles. There is a bias by the patient that knows by past visits if his/her doctor handles "non internist health problems". This attitude controls the direct access to specialists.

- A small description about issues in each paper found in the systematic review could be included in the discussion

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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