Reviewer’s report

Title: Medical overuse and quaternary prevention in primary care - A qualitative study with general practitioners

Version: 0 Date: 01 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Sudeh Cheraghi-Sohi

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript on a topic of growing interest. There does not appear to be any prior literature on this topic in regards to the population in primary care and location for this study and this is the study's primary aim, to ascertain the view of GPs in Germany on medical overuse and indeed some country specific issues were identified.

My main concern surrounds the use of a well-established, but prescriptive and time consuming approach to analysis and whether the authors actually conducted a grounded theory or simply used aspects of it. This needs clarification. Furthermore, my concern regards the sample size. Thirteen interviews is a small number to have reached theoretical saturation (although not implausible). However, my concerns stem, for example from the Medical expertise/approach section, where the authors discuss three groupings. Such a number of groupings in such a small sample are concerning, can we be sure of the range of opinions expressed on this topic have been covered i.e. would a larger sample say of 20 participants, have uncovered another relevant grouping? the heterogeneity of views here does suggest that perhaps saturation has not been achieved? Having said this the findings seem plausible and figure 3 is an excellent representation of the drivers discussed in the findings section. If the authors could provide a mapping of the data/concepts across the individual participants along with the timeline of when the interviews were conducted this would provide some confidence in the overall findings.

Minor comments:

1. No quotes for the first section on definitional understanding, and a lack of quotations does make some of the statements difficult to substantiate. Please provide some relevant quotes

2. Please clarify statement on page: "Their definition was either acquired by evidence from study findings " - do you mean formal, published peer reviewed evidence?
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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal