Reviewer’s report

Title: COPING BETTER WITH HEALTH PROBLEMS AFTER A VISIT TO THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN: ASSOCIATIONS WITH PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS CHARACTERISTICS

Version: 0 Date: 04 May 2017

Reviewer: Zlata Ozvacic Adzic

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this manuscript. This paper represents significant contribution in terms of further investigation of concept of enablement, a valuable patient reported consultation outcome-measure in family medicine. I have however some queries and comments regarding the manuscript content and structure. I am recommending its publication in BMC Family Practice after major revision.

Abstract

Methods - you report a random sample of 200 physicians and 1751 patients that participated in the study; in the Methods and Results section of the manuscript you report a sample of 199 physicians (line 66, 119) and 1791 patients (line 70, 115) - please adjust.

1. 1 Introduction

Lines 49 - 50 - "to our knowledge, the relationship between family physician work stress and patient coping has never been investigated" - I would suggest the reference on a similar topic: Is Burnout in Family Physicians in Croatia Related to Interpersonal Quality of Care?. Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology, 64(2), pp. 255-264.

2. Methods

Lines 85-86: please provide more details regarding the variable "number of visits to a FP in the last six months" - was it self-reported by the patient, or extracted from patient's medical record?

Lines 93-94 - provide detailed information regarding variables stemming from ERI model

Line 101 - "The feeling of coping better with health.." problems?

3. 3 Results

Tables 2 and 3 - please state the ref.value for each of the tested variables in the regression models; again, the effort reward imbalance exposure variable is very unclear
Line 134-135 - you report the association between exposure to effort-reward imbalance and enablement in the final model (model 3) - OR 0.66; is it significant, considering CI 0.42-1.03? Please check.

4. Discussion

Lines 164 - 165 - the hypothesis regarding older age / longer relationship between the patient and his physician / and higher patient enablement can be underpinned by well-known positive association between continuity of care and patient enablement (ref Howie; Mercer; Ozvacic Adzic).

Lines 169-173: the association between enablement and frequency of visits needs to be discussed in terms of patient's health status - more frequent visits may indicate poorer general health.

5. Conclusion

Line 245 - "his/her own characteristics" - patient characteristics?

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

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