Reviewer’s report

Title: How well do general practitioners know their elderly patients' social relations and feelings of loneliness?

Version: 0 Date: 04 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Agnes Tiwari

Reviewer's report:

The study focuses on a significant issue, that of loneliness of elderly patients. The aim is clearly stated (p.4). The strength of this study is that no other studies have examined GPs’ knowledge about their patients' social participation and the feelings of loneliness (p.10:169-170).

That being said, numerous sections of the manuscript are unclear, as indicated below. I would like to suggest to the authors that they conduct thorough edits of the whole paper. I am sure that the value of this study will become more evident when all the edits are made.

P.5: 61 - "for" is missing before "non-participation'"?

Elaboration of some parts of the questionnaire is advised:

P.6:73 - what are the primary care studies?

P.6:78 - what are the three levels of severity?

P.6:79-81 - what are the rating scales for the variables?

P.6:84 - missing "in" (each day the last week)?

P.6:89 - "the last months" - how many months?

P.6:91 - what is the three-item scale?

P.6:93 - the measurement of loneliness - is this based on a previous study?

P.7: 101-109 - the description is not clear. Please explain clearly the measurements adopted for the study.

P.7: 113 - what is meant by "reformulated" questions?

P.9: 155 - delete "it" after "health status"

P.9:157 - delete "d" in "practiced"
P.10:173-175 - please revise the sentence as it is not clear.

P.10:177-181 - a long sentence that fails to convey a clear meaning.

P.10:181-183 - what is the meaning of this sentence?

P.10:186 - what is meant by "independently of the study"?

**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.

Unable to assess

**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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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