Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship between health literacy and patient activation among frequent users of healthcare services: a cross-sectional study.

Version: 0 Date: 26 May 2017

Reviewer: Christy Ledford

Reviewer's report:

Introduction - I would avoid the language that CCM is gaining importance. We have been using it for almost 20 years.

The transition between CCM and PAM is awkward. Describe better how PAM is situated within the CCM. Also, be careful to conceptualize a concept using proprietary language. The second paragraph uses Hibbard's tool's language to describe a broader concept.

Also the operationalization of health literacy is hotly debated. Need to at least recognize that when it is a primary variable of the study.

Method—what is the target behavior change of the intervention? Activation? Health literacy? Engagement?

Include more information about the recruitment protocols and dropouts prior to variable assessment.

Discussion

It is bold to say that none of these studies dealt with frequent users - although that wasn't the focus of those studies, they are likely included.

What is the implication of the finding? If they are not associated, which is the better target for intervention? What are the discriminant measures of validity?

What do the findings show for the CCM? Do patients not need health literacy to be successful in active participation with their team?

Recommend extending your literature search. Specifically include…

The Influence of Health Literacy and Patient Activation on Patient Information Seeking and Sharing.

Patient activation and health literacy as predictors of health information use in a general sample of Dutch health care consumers.

Racial disparities in patient activation: Evaluating the mediating role of health literacy with path analyses.

Assessing patient activation and health literacy in the ED.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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