Reviewer’s report

Title: Over prescribing of antibiotics for Acute Respiratory Tract Infections; A qualitative study to explore Irish general practitioners' perspectives

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Samah Alageel

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper which I feel needs clarity in a few places. Please see comments below.

In the abstract:

Methods: please clearly identify the study design and analysis method.

Results: Please provide some description of the themes.

In the background:

Please make sure you define all the abbreviations, for example: UK and EU.

Provide a rationale for specifying OOH services.

Methods:

Please specify the study design.

Can you clarify how you decided that data saturation was reached?

In the data collection section: can you provide numbers to supplementary materials? and make sure it is the same number as the ones attached to the manuscript, as now I have supplementary material 1 and 3.

Add the ethical approval details in the "Ethical considerations" section.
Results:

The authors have clearly identified themes and description of themes, but I wondered if you could add more quotes to support your results and improve transparency.

In page 12 lines 248-251: the sentence "This raises ethical challenge ..." seems to be the authors' discussion of the results, if this was reflected by the interviewees then please make this clear, otherwise this could be a discussion point.

Discussion:

In Page 17 lines 359-360: the sentence "Some interviewees felt .... " was not mentioned in the results section.

It might be helpful to present patients' views about antibiotic prescribing in primary care and discussing whether or not it is consistent with GPs fears.

Strengths and limitations:

Discussing how the views of those GPs who did not agree to take part in the study might differ.

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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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