Reviewer's report

Title: Preschool children in Danish out-of-hours primary care: a one-year descriptive study of face-to-face consultations

Version: 0 Date: 26 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Steinar Hunskår

Reviewer's report:

This is a nicely performed and important study about preschool children's use of out-of-hours services in Denmark. It has a random inclusion over one year, no drop outs and a good size.

I have only some minor comments, but they should all be addressed by the authors.

1. The material is somewhat old (2010-2011). This should be commented on and if there are later changes in the organization etc, this should be mentioned and implications discussed.

2. Likewise, the reference list has almost no recent papers. There are definitely more recent papers that could be incorporated.

3. The paper uses different words for the included patients: young children, preschool children, and the definition is somewhat difficult to find. If it is children 0-5 years (<6 years), this should be used all over.

4. There are thus 6 year categories. Many things may be different over this age span, and it is not investigated. I think there should be at least some comments on this, as RFE, treatments, referral etc surely may differ between the age <1 and 5-6.

5. Under the subheading Population, the selected age group is not mentioned at all. Here the definition of the included patients should be placed.

6. First para of Results starts with the total population and refers to Figure 1. The choice of excluding the telephone contacts is argued for here, should be in the Discussion. Also, the most remarkable difference between all patients and the children, is the difference in home visits. The implications of this must be discussed.
7. In Table 1 the time of symptoms before contact is shown. This is an important variable that is not sufficiently presented and discussed (differences between the youngest and eldest?, differences in RFA? Severity?)

8. Very minor: The text varies between 0 or 1 decimal in percentages (18% vs 18.0%), it should be one decimal all over.

9. Discussion of prevalence of contacts, some recent papers could be mentioned:


10. Under provided care:


11. The prescription of antibiotics are numerically discussed but not qualitatively; is is adequate, accord to national recommendations etc.

12. Table 4 could be omitted as it does not contribute to important discussions in the paper.

13. Likewise Figure 2 can be omitted and the overlap shortly mentioned in the text
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?
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Yes

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