Reviewer’s report

Title: Does the implementation of a care pathway for patients with hip or knee osteoarthritis lead to fewer diagnostic imaging and referrals by general practitioners? A pre-post-implementation study of claims data.

Version: 1 Date: 08 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Helena Britt

Reviewer's report:

To the authors:

Thank you for your extensive response to my earlier comments. This paper has been considerably improved. In particular it is now of readable length, and is far less wordy.

The Discussion and Conclusions are far better. However, I again suggest some changes to the conclusion. At present in the Conclusion you are trying to ignore the reverse effect of the intervention on referral rates. You need to add this.

There are still a few parts where it is difficult to grasp your meaning.

There are a number of sections when you use the wrong tense (e.g. when talking about how the results are presented in the paper, use the present tense).

When presenting the results themselves all results should be in the past tense.

Please find my specific comments in sticky notes in the PDF document.

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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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