Reviewer’s report

Title: Advanced practice nurses’ and general practitioners’ first experiences with introducing the advanced practice nurse role to Swiss primary care: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Tuomas-Heikki Koskela

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for an interesting and well-written paper. I have raised some issues to be clarified in this paper.

I would like to request the authors to check COREQ-criteria for reporting qualitative research before revising their paper https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/article/19/6/349/1791966

Abstract

- It's difficult to extract the results from the abstract. I would distinct the themes instead by using 1).2).3)... 

Background

- This sentence should be simplified: 
"The dominating movement has focused on the CNS role, mainly in research and leadership at university hospitals"

- As a pragmatic solution, most APNs currently use 113 TARMED under the global location number (GLN) of their supervising GPs to reimburse their services at a lower rate than the doctors [unpublished observation]. &gt; and GPs take the responsibility of the patients ultimately? Who is responsible for the patients if APNs don't have official role in Swiss system?

Methods

- What is the theoretical framework of this study? Phenomenology? Content analysis?...
-For transparency, the knowledge of interviewers of the topic and researched practices should be clarified here (did the researchers know the interviewees previously?)

-Were there any APNs or GPs who refused to participate or dropped out?

Participants

-The role of participated APNs should be described better in order to understand their views better. What kinds of duties the participants had in the practice? Making triage/diagnoses in primary care? Writing prescriptions? Something else?

-Data analysis is well described

-How many data coders coded data?

Results

-In order to be clear I would distinct the themes by using 1).2).3)…

-I would specify more the titles of the themes:

-"Awareness of limits" -&gt; too general topic in my opinion? -&gt; Awareness of limited skills?...

-Lack of knowledge regarding the APN role -&gt; Doctor's lack of knowledge regarding the APN role?

-Political and legal issues &gt; too general title, please specify!

-Were there any diverse cases or minor themes, which were not discussed?

Limitations

-Do you consider it as a limitation that you had just focus groups for APNs, not for GPs and just four GPs from two distinct practices were interviewed? Was data saturated in terms of GPs comments? Did you discuss about data saturation in your research group?
Discussion

- What kind of impact these results have beyond Switzerland internationally?

Additional files

- Were the interview guides different in different practices? If yes, why?

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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