Reviewer’s report

Title: A survey of the working status of family medicine physicians in clinics and hospitals in Korea

Version: 1 Date: 21 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Imam Xierali

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting descriptive study that looks at family physicians in Korea.

1. I would recommend adding a brief trend report on the growth of family medicine in Korea since its first establishment. These may be done with two or three sentences citing data from somewhere.
2. As the data suggests a substantial proportion of those surveyed are hospitalists, I wonder if you could discuss if they are still considered primary care providers. The growing number of hospitalists is considered as a weakening factor for primary care in the U.S. Maybe this is similar thing in Korea.
3. As you mentioned there were about 8000 FPs in Korea and the sampling frame only covered 4000, so the generalizability of the study is weakened. I wondered if you could tell who are the missing FPs from the sampling frame. And regardless, add this into limitation section.
4. Related to item 3 above, the response rate is 26%, which further weakens the generalizability. Have you checked on the similarities and differences between those responded vs non-respondents? A comparison of the baseline characteristics between the two would be necessary for confidence in your findings.

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.

Unable to assess

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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None

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