Re
viewer’s report

Title: Written patient information materials used in general practices fail to meet acceptable quality standards

Version: 0 Date: 20 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Malene Plejdrup Hansen

Reviewer's report:

This is a very nice, clearly written paper on the quality of written patient information material for general practices in Styria in Austria. The findings are extremely important knowledge for both clinicians - and researchers, not only in Austria - but worldwide.

Major comments: Results, line 108: 58 GPs returned the questionnaire+ materials. Table 1 contains only information on 57 GP. In Figure 1 it shows that only 57/58 GPs returned the questionnaire. Please clarify/align the numbers.

Minor comments:

Background, line 46-48: It is unclear to me if the 56% refers to cities in Austria or people. Perhaps the authors might consider rephrasing this sentence a bit?

At some places the sentence begins with a number - e.g. line 117 (55 GPs…) and line 132 (10%...), line 186 (50%) - the authors might consider adding "some" or "a total of" or spell out the numbers (e.g. Ten).

Limitations, line 183-186: It reads as if the GP population for this present study has been compared to the rest of the Styrian GP population. Please clarify.

It would be valuable to know what kind of characteristics which were studied in ref. 22-24

Conclusions, line 207: … used in (by?) Styrian GPs or in Styrian general practices.
Implications, line 221-229. The authors might consider abbreviating this section - by leaving out some of the specific information on the next project planned - and simply just referring to the link/ref 27.

Table 1: sex -&gt; Sex Authors might consider having just two columns in Table 1: Demographic characteristics N (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>(%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>(51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>(49)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Years of professional experience

| &lt; 5 years | 2 (4) |
| 5-15 years  | 5 (9) |

Figure 2: Identification data - is the value 0 minimum? (Max 83, Average 32, Min?). A "minimum line" missing?

Figure 3: The authors might consider placing "Not applicable" as the last group - after "Media ´, enterprises, publishing groups".

**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.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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