Reviewer’s report

Title: Health mediators as members of multidisciplinary group practice: lessons learned from a primary health care model programme in Hungary

Version: 1 Date: 15 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Mark Harris

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper describing the lessons learned from a project involving health mediators in encouraging patients to attend for a health check in Hungarian primary care. This has relevance in many other countries developing roles for community health workers in primary care. However, there are some significant problems that need to be addressed:

1. There needs to be some more information on employment of mediators. Who employs them? What are their conditions of employment (casual/permanent, pay levels compared to other health workers)? Where do the funds come from (health insurance, local government?).

2. What languages did the GPs, practice nurses and mediators speak? How did these relate to the languages spoken by their patients? Did the mediators role include translation or interpreting?

3. What were the characteristics of the mediators? - age, gender, languages spoken, cultural background (especially if Roma).

4. What were the attendance rates? These are given as 1.3 -1.7 times higher, but the actual rates are not given in the figures.

5. The data is too clustered for a Pearson's exact test or correlation coefficient without adjusting for clustering. As the number of clusters is small it is unlikely to be significant.

6. What were the numbers of patients in each practice. The number of participants data in Figure 3 needs to be adjusted for practice size.

7. It is stated in lines 42-46 on page 8 that patients were asked to report who motivated them to attend the health assessments. How was this survey conducted (who conducted it, when, how)? What were the number of respondents? What were the response rates?

8. What were the proportion of job leavers over the 43 months (say in 6 or 12 month intervals)? This should be discussed. It is attributed in the results as related to "integration" but this is unclear. It may have reflected many factors including the selection, tenure, remuneration, conditions, etc of mediators.
9. In line 1 on page 9 it is stated that the "high proportion of actually worked hours of mediators is due to their overemployment". It is unclear what this means. This and the rest of this paragraph is unclear and needs to be explained.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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