Reviewer's report

Title: Any versus long-term prescribing of high risk medications in older people using 2012 Beers Criteria: results from three cross-sectional samples of primary care records for 2003/4, 2007/8 and 2011/12

Version: 2  Date: 17 September 2015

Reviewer: Marie Bradley

Reviewer's report:

I am mostly happy with the revisions made.

The use of general practice and practice should be consistent.

I am uncomfortable with the sentence "Even though direct comparisons are difficult due to the different heath systems, our data suggest 226 that the prevalence of any HRM is slightly higher in the UK than in the US(16, 17)."

The list of drugs applied in each study differs as the list used here was modified to reflect UK use. Also The database used in the US study was from the medicare health insurance plan for over 65s in the US. Not everyone in the states is eligible for medicare and among those who are many have their own private health insurance and do not avail of medicare services. Therefore the population included in this US study may not be representative in the way that CPRD is of the UK and so cannot be used as a direct comparison as the study likely underestimated HRM use as not all drug use is captured due to outside plan use. Due to the fragmented nature of the health care system in the US it is very difficult to find an appropriate database to answer questions such as these although some of the HMO databases are increasingly being used.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests