Reviewer’s report

Title: Health systems readiness to provide geriatric friendly care services in Uganda: a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 07 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Leon Geffen

Reviewer's report:

This is a valuable and necessary paper which will add to the limited amount of information available on health system readiness to provide services to older adults. There are a number of grammatical and spelling errors which need to be corrected e.g. line 50 - eminent (should be imminent), line 53 "health" should be healthy, line 66 social-economic should be socio-economic, line 166 geriatric physicians - should be geriatricians. Other errors exist that need correcting. Line 62 - "allocative efficiency" - what does this term mean? International literature is using the term "older adults" rather than old people or aged or old patients. Line 221 - "all HF were not receiving" - should possibly be changed to "No HF's", similarly line 229, line 340. Line 222-3 - is this a "fee for service model". Line 228 - "grab" or handles or grab rails? line 306 - clutches - or crutches, "walking aids for the blind" - shouldn't this be visual aids. line 349 - keep consistent with prior definition HCIII

I would like the authors to include some information in the introduction on the SARA methodology, where it has been utilised in other low resource settings, e.g. what do we know from the literature about Uganda (or other Sub Saharan African countries) use of SARA methodology to deal with issues such of HIV/AIDS, maternal health, child health programs. It is important for the reader to know if it is specifically older adult care programs that are lacking, or is it a systemic problem across all health care services in Uganda. It would be valuable to know whether the SARA methodology has been utilised in other LMICs particularly for older adults and similarly in OECD countries - how ready are they to deal with the problem of a growing older population.

Prior to the section on study design, it would be adviseable to clearly state the aims and objectives.

The public primary health care facilities need to be described in greater detail - what differentiates a HCIII, HCIV & district hospital - who provides services, what services are expected in these facilities etc. Would one expect a primary care clinic (possibly a HCIII) run by mid level healthcare workers, trained in managing diarrheal disease, DOTS, to provide vaccinations and do HIV testing to be able to provide geriatric care services, or is an HCIII staffed by a doctor, clinical nurse practitioner, do they have inpatient beds etc.
Under statistical analysis, there is some info regarding HCIII, but this information would be better placed in the intro and not in the analysis section, similarly lines 173 - 175, where HF readiness is described.

Figure 3 - do you have permission to publish?

Discussion - line 373 - is this the 1st study of this kind in Uganda - or anywhere?. Please define term "developing Africa"

**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.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
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Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
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