Reviewer’s report

Title: Meaning in life and health care use: findings from a nationally representative study of older adults in Germany

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Vjenka Garms-Homolová

Reviewer's report:

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Does it make a sense to include reference number 4 in a paper about utilization of health care by older adults?

Sample size: The "analytical sample" n=3,850 is introduced in the abstract only. It is not included in the paragraph "methods". Please describe (define) your term "analytical sample". Please clarify the response rates (50% in the first wave, 38% in the second wave). Who refused? Who was excluded (etc.) and why? How does it influence the results?

Changes in accessibility of physician specialists: Extra payment for use of physicians (so called Zuzahlung or Praxisgebühr) from 10 Euros existed during the realization of the DEAS. In the public discussion, it was not evaluated as "small". The psychological effects were estimated as important. Please include references about the effects of the Praxisgebühr on the care utilization, particularly by the older adults. International reviews exist on the psychological effects of co-payments (Please include some). Additionally: Please mention the increase of waiting times.

The first sentence seems to be incomplete. These models were used because Further details with regard to negative binomial regressions are given by Hardin et al.
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.

Yes

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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