Reviewer’s report

Title: Do virtual renal clinics improve access to kidney care? A preliminary impact evaluation of a virtual clinic in east London

Version: 1 Date: 08 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Khaled Abdel-Kader

Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors for their revisions. Most of my concerns have been addressed. Several still need to be addressed.

1) Given the lack of granular outcome data, please retitle the manuscript to include "a preliminary evaluation".

2) Please comment in the manuscript on the low prevalence of CKD aside from the lower age in east London. Generally, the prevalence of CKD in a population receiving primary care is higher than the general population average as patients with disease and older patients are more likely to be seen by their primary care clinicians than younger and healthier individuals who are included in general population estimates. Further, a brief mention of how these virtual renal clinics could be helpful or challenging in areas where the prevalence of CKD is higher is needed (especially in light of the nephrologist concerns)

3) A statement including the prior diabetes projects regarding trust building and buy in for the practices is needed within the manuscript to provide context

4) As the authors know, the ultimate goal of nephrology referrals is to improve evidence based care and outcomes for patients with renal disorders. The currently presented data are limited in their ability to speak to whether this novel approach to care succeeded in driving improvements in these outcomes (processes of care or patient centered). The lack of outcome data in this manuscript must be acknowledged as a limitation. Further, an understanding of how these changes in the structure of care will impact pt outcomes when more virtual services are available needs to be acknowledged
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As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

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