Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk-based approach to school entry examinations in Germany – a validation study

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Hajo Zeeb

Reviewer's report:

Führer et al report on the school entry examination and particularly on the validation of a novel screening approach to better identify children in need of further physician examination and care. Previous comments on an earlier version have largely been taken up, in particular the manuscript has gained from including information from other countries such as the UK and the US. The equity considerations associated with the scientific argument for targeted use of resources are a strength of the paper. I have several minor comments.

P4L2: disadvantaged

P4L9: physical examination instead of bodily examination

P4 L21 37% of what? - please specify: of the workload using a blanket approach.

P5 L23 you might need to add information on whether U9 is generally taken before the SEE, else perhaps newly developed deficits (between U8 and U9) could first be found in the SEE, and this would at least put in question whether such a newly found problem indicates lack of preventative care - in that case it would just be the time sequence. This may be a rare occurrence though.

P6L20: review the last sentence, e.g. better start with "According to this definition,…"

P7 L25: I wonder if using the word "only" following medical technical assistant is a good choice, as it could indicate inferiority rather than difference. Consider removing.

P8 L7 what would dangerous diagnostics be? Reword please.

P10 L1 lack of especially medical personnel - may need rewording, e.g. especially the lack of medical personnel

P10 L3 the public health practitioners mentioned here are medical personnel, I guess. This is not necessarily what all readers might associate with the term. Be more specific, e.g. paediatricians in the public health offices (or so).
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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