Reviewer’s report

Title: Management of fever in Australian children: a population-based sample survey

Version: 0 Date: 16 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Jerome Rambaud

Reviewer's report:

General comments:

First, I would to thank the author for this useful manuscript which give an overview of medical practice in children in East Australia.

In this manuscript, Braithwaite et al used the data from the CareTrack Kids study and more specifically interested in the diagnosis and therapeutic management of a fever in children of all ages.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the rate of compliance of physician in emergency department, general practitioner and hospital admission in health districts of Queensland to clinical practice guidelines defined in Australia.

After a clear definition of the places of care, the diagnostic and therapeutic items evaluated, the author underline a wild range of adhesion to clinical practice guidelines and highlight that quality of care could depends on the age and the place of evaluation. The insist on the quality of care for children younger than 3 months and the "low level" of care for older children.

The methodology of this manuscript is clear and perfectly fit to the initial issue. The authors start his project with a well-defined main objective at the beginning of the publication, a response to this objective is provided by the results. The discussion highlights the strengths and weaknesses of this study and proposes solutions to the results found.

The manuscript is well written and easy to understand for readers.

To my opinion, the retrospective characteristics of this study do not alter the conclusion due to the strengths of the datas.

All references appearing in the manuscript are appropriate, and up to date concerning the topic of this manuscript. The used references allow the final discussion to be developed in an interesting way and add value to the manuscript.

Statistical analysis are well explained and make in a solid and reproducible way

In conclusion, this manuscript is in the scope for BM pediatrics the paper in scope for the journal and have an interest in BMC pediatrics readers.
This "ancillary study" on fever using the data base of CareTrack Kids highlight the wild range of adhesion to clinical practice guidelines and underline the fact that quality of care could depend on the age and the place of evaluation.

Specific comments:

The authors do not widely describe the methods which has been already use in another publication. It makes it difficult to read this paragraph, but it does not alter its understanding.

Table One is difficult to read because straddling on 2 pages.

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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