Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of disease screening on awareness and management of hypertension and diabetes between 2011 and 2015: results from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study

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Reviewer: Fiona Bragg

Reviewer's report:

The authors present data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS). Based on data for over 9,000 individuals who participated in the survey in both 2011 and 2015, they examine the impact of screening for hypertension and diabetes in the study on participants' awareness and the management of these two conditions. The manuscript is well-written and methodologically appropriate, and addresses an interesting, relevant and currently inadequately understood topic.

My comments on the paper are summarised below.

1. CHARLS surveys are undertaken every two years, but data are not reported from the 2013 survey. Whilst I appreciate additional data may have been collected in the 2015 survey relating to how participants were made aware of diagnoses of diabetes and hypertension, it would be of interest to know if the findings relating to awareness of diabetes and hypertension were similar in the 2013 survey.

2. Results: The meaning of the x-axis labels in Figure 1 (Awareness, Monitoring, Treatment, Medical Advice) are not obvious without referring back to the Methods section - it would be helpful to add an explanation of these terms, for example in the figure legend.

3. Discussion: The authors state that "The available CHARLS study protocols do not clarify what specific clarifications or medical advice was given at the time the physical examination and when the diabetes test results were reported to study participants". Understanding the nature of the feedback provided would be very helpful in interpreting the study findings and, although there may not have been a systematic approach to providing feedback to study participants, it would be helpful if the authors could provide some description of the nature of feedback provided.

4. Discussion: Can the authors reflect on the likely generalisability of the study's findings to other health surveys and contexts?
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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