Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of Weight Loss Outcomes In Obesity Care: Results of the National ACTION Study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Ann McDermott

Reviewer's report:

The paper reads well. I offer a few suggestions to facilitate the readers understanding and retention.

Please consider:

1. Having the tables be written to stand alone and be independent of the text would help readers follow these novel concepts, analyses and results.

2. Tables 2 and 3 and Figure 1 - defining acronyms PwO and HCP in the footnotes, as is done in Table 1 for BMI and SD.

3. Table 2 - it would help the reader if study definitions were included in the footnotes. For example, what is the difference between an 'Active HCP' and 'Encouraging HCP'? Also, have a footnote that briefly defines the study criteria for 'Unmotivated' and 'Motivated' POW.

4. Table 3. - the term 'Base Case PwO' is novel and specific to this paper. Define this term in the footnote.

5. Line 161, regarding the term 'dietician' - the preferred professional spelling in the US is 'dietitian' with a 't'.

6. The discussion section recaps the main variables and ties everything together, addressing the 3 demographic and 3 attitudinal aspects and how to apply this in the clinic. The discussion mentions the HCP making a diagnosis, offering support, encouragement, and empathy.

Omitted in the final discussion section, however, is referral to the behavioral aspect (the 7th variable in Table 1) that specifically identifies the diabetes educator. Also, there is no mention in the discussion section of potential involvement of broader 'the clinical team', i.e. no discussion point about referrals to support ongoing behavior change.

I believe that this paper provides important insight to modifiable factors, including patient weight history and attitude, and the value of addressing weight and health in the clinical setting, strategies of support behavioral changes, and the potential return in patient success with weight loss.
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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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