Reviewer's report

Title: How much do rheumatologists and orthopaedists doctor's modalities impact the cost of arthritis in Cyprus?

Version: 5 Date: 23 March 2015

Reviewer: Gregory Lubiani

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. The authors make note in the paper and summarized conclusions that the existing state of practice lacks cost-effectiveness. These statements are outside of the scope of this paper. At no point do the authors evaluate indirect costs involved or, more importantly, the effectiveness of the various interventions mentioned in the paper.
  2. There needs to be more explanation regarding how the data was reported. It is unclear whether the doctor’s utilized the patient data at their disposal or used their experience to provide a “best guess”. It would also be beneficial to provide the survey as an appendix.
  3. The authors state the use of fees reported by various provider agencies. Do these represent unadjusted fee schedules or the average adjusted charge per patient? This needs to be clarified and, if it is unadjusted, needs further addressing.
  4. In the conclusions, the authors state that the economic downturn didn’t affect consumer habits in this sector. There needs to be some citation or discussion here to defend that statement.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  5. The portion discussing costs seen by other countries is a bit jumbled. It needs to be cleaned up. Also, it would be beneficial to elaborate on what the reader should take away from these comparisons.
  6. There are minor grammatical errors throughout. The paper would benefit from further editing.
  7. A discussion on the limitations of the paper should be included.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests