Reviewer's report

Title: Utilization of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) among children from a German birth cohort (GINIplus): patterns, costs, and trends of use

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Reviewer: Dominik Schöndorf

Reviewer's report:

In their interesting study 'Utilization of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) among children from a German birth cohort (GINIplus): patterns, costs, and trends of use' the authors analysed use of CAM in a well defined population. Study question is well defined, methods seem to be appropriate, the data are sound, limitations are clearly stated.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The conclusion “The present results may support policy makers and health care managers in their further decision making-process concerning the inclusion of CAM in the list of reimbursable therapy approaches” appears to be incongruous since prescription rate or percentage of privately insured participants are unknown as the authors themselves state. Or were parents and children asked whether they would choose a health assurance with a greater financial support of CAM if possible?

Minor Essential Revisions:

- Reference number 12 seems to be redundant
- The questionnaires (main und self-administered) should be added to appendix

Discretionary Revisions: none.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.