Reviewer’s report

Title: What has been the impact of the Traditional Herbal Registration (THR) Scheme in the UK on information provided with herbal products bought over the counter?

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Weijun Zhang

Reviewer's report:

The research topic is very interesting and important to the usage of herbal products. Authors aimed to evaluate the impact of the THR scheme on the information provided with herbal products. However, there are a few issues on methodology.

1. In a cross-sectional study, the investigator measures the outcome and the exposures in the study participants at the same time and then study their association. In this manuscript, the outcome is information provided with herbal products while exposure is the THR scheme.

   a) Rather than comparing registered herbal products in 2011 with 2016, this study did not actually compare exposure with non-exposure or estimate the odds between these two groups. There are 37.3% (25) of the registered products in this study. If authors can compare these 25 registered products with 42 non-registered products, it will provide much more useful information on the impact of the THR on the information of herbal products.

   b) From the perspective of research methodology, this study is NOT a cross-sectional study.

2. There were inclusion and exclusion criteria described in study design section. In the title and conclusion, authors tried to draw conclusion of herbal products. That would be acceptable if authors can explain in the introduction or discussion about why they only include single ingredient herbal products but they still conclude on overall herbal products which include cream, liquids, oils, etc.

3. Even though authors said they want to include only single-ingredient herbal products, from those tables, they looked like single herbs, rather than single-ingredient herbal products.

4. There is a typo on page 5 line 51 and 57: NCAMM should be NCCAM.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests  
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal