Author's response to reviews

Title: Inpatient and Emergency Department Health Care Utilization among Patients Who Require Interpreter Services

Authors:

Jane W Njeru (njeru.jane@mayo.edu)
Jennifer St. Sauver (StSauver.Jennifer@mayo.edu)
Debra J Jacobson (djacobsn@mayo.edu)
Jon O Ebbert (ebbert.jon@mayo.edu)
Paul Y Takahashi (takahashi.paul@mayo.edu)
Chun Fan (fan.chun@mayo.edu)
Mark L Wieland (wieland.mark@mayo.edu)

Version: 4 Date: 16 April 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
April 16th 2015

Christopher Morrey, PhD,
Executive Editor, BMC Health Services Research

Dear Dr. Morrey,

RE: MS: 1758945821152400 - Inpatient and Emergency Department Health Care Utilization among Patients Who Require Interpreter Services

We made the additional revision based on these suggestions from the reviewers. Below you will find the reviewer comments followed by our responses. We have resubmitted the manuscript with the tracked changes.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jane W. Njeru, MB ChB
Division of Primary Care Internal Medicine
Mayo Clinic, 200 First St. SW, Rochester, MN 55904
P: 507-284-5161 Email: njeru.jane@mayo.edu
Response to Reviewers

Reviewer 2: Discretionary revisions:

After rereading the study again, one issue that concerns me is the inconsistent use of the term LEP. In line 25, you say patients had limited English proficiency. Lines 208, 213, 244, 267, the authors use the term LEP patients. I think it be read better if the authors chose one way of describing patient, either with LEP or as LEP, but not both.

In all instances, we have changed the language to “patients with LEP”.

Also, the description of LEP is not quite correct. Census respondents who indicate they speak a language other than English are asked characterize how well they speak English ... their options include "very well" to not at all. https://ask.census.gov/faq.php?id=5000&faqId=6159

Our paper reads: “….which is defined by the US Census Bureau as speaking English “less than very well” in any person 5 years of age or older”.

In the measures section, I would distinguish dependent measures from independent measures.

We have added this distinction in the measures section.