Reviewer's report

Title: Health Literacy and Medical Care Costs in an Integrated Healthcare System: A cross-sectional cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 22 March 2015

Reviewer: Francesc Cots

Reviewer's report:

The article provides evidence that perception has always sensed. A poor health literacy hinders the treatment of a disease and does not have the same performance regarding the patient has the ability to interact with health services and maximize the performance of the process.

That patients with a poor level of Health literacy can cost up to 17% is information that gives great importance to improve care processes to adapt to this problem and minimize its effect.

The wealth of information used, clinical, economic and administrative costs seems to be a good way to put evidence.

Favourably evaluate the use of actual costs, not prices, more common in economic literature in the USA.

I just left wondering whether adjustments disease, severity and comorbidity used, adjust enough and therefore what remains associated with the variable Health literacy is quite tight. But I think you have used all possible tools and correctly.

Major Compulsory Revisions

You can adjust the probabilities of the two groups using Propensity score matching reinforcing groups with little presence and balancing the two branches. We need to ensure that health literacy variable includes only the effect.

Discretionary Revisions

Too many acronyms that make it difficult to understand some of the methodology paragraphs.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests