Reviewer’s report

Title: The prevalence of self-reported underuse of medications due to cost for the elderly: results from seven European urban communities

Version: Date: 31 December 2014

Reviewer: Emily Walkom

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

None

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. Abstract – line 55-56: delete “in 2009”, the date of study was already mentioned in line 53.


3. Methods – lines 150-155. Thank you for including the link to the entire survey. However, I would still like to see more details in the manuscript of the question asked to participants around reasons for not buying prescribed medications and care. The authors state that participants were asked “What were the reasons for not buying prescribed medications and care?” What is the definition of “care” in this question? This is a confounding variable as the question is not asking exclusively about medicines, and may need to be mentioned in the ‘limitations’ section of the paper. I also think it is worthwhile clarifying that the survey asks participants if they had “ever” refrained from purchasing medicine or care due to cost, rather than asking about a certain timeframe (e.g. last 4 weeks)

- Discretionary Revisions

4. The addition of a table comparing features of each country’s healthcare systems is useful. The discussion of the features that may explain the results for Lithuanian respondents is still quite limited. Considering this is one of the key results reported in the manuscript I would expect more time to be spent addressing this difference.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.