Author's response to reviews

Title: Self-rated health and hospital services utilization in the Spanish Public Health System: A longitudinal study

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Alicante, Jun 19th, 2015

Dear editorial board of the BMC Health Services Research:

Please find attached the manuscript: "Self-rated health and Hospital Services Utilization in the Spanish Public Health System: A longitudinal study" by Nayara Tamayo-Fonseca, Andreu Nolasco, José Antonio Quesada, Pamela Pereyra-Zamora, Inmaculada Melchor, Joaquín Moncho, Julia Calabuig and Carmen Barona, to be submitted as an "Research article" to the BMC Health Services Research. We wonder whether you would consider the attached original article for publication.

We think that the BMC Health Services Research is an appropriate journal to publish this article because this is the first longitudinal study conducted in Spain on the relationship between self-rated health and hospital services utilisation among the general adult population. This study has confirmed that poor self-rated health is associated with and predicts increased use of hospital services but the predictive capacity regarding use of hospital services is improved when other socioeconomic and health variables are also considered. This predictive model is different for men and women.

All co-authors have seen and agreed with the contents of the manuscript and there is no conflict interest to report. We certify that the submission is original work and we are not intending to publish the same data in another journal nor is there under press any article based on the same data. If accepted, the manuscript or parts will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder.
We hope the format and the content fits in well with the scope and the aims of the Journal.

Yours sincerely,

Andreu Nolasco, on behalf of the authors

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