Reviewer’s report

Title: A model for a drug distribution system in rural Australia as a social determinant of health using Event Structure Analysis

Version: 0 Date: 01 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Emir Veledar

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, authors discuss challenges and difficulties in accessing health care in rural or remote regions in outback Australia. Authors explain that due to these challenges, pharmacy profession, schools of pharmacy, and regulatory agencies require pharmacists to address the need for medication access in such areas. Authors propose a model to describe a drug procurement, storage, and distribution system in a rural and remote region of Australia. Additionally, authors learned the opinions and experiences of healthcare workers under the model. Qualitative research methods with Event Structure Analysis (ESA) were used to develop this model.

My comments for minor changes are as follows:

Background

1. Please consider rewriting the sentence and not repeating "remote and very remote:" "Over 60% of the remote and very remote Australian population is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. More than 20% of indigenous Australians live in remote or very remote locations."

2. Please consider adding a few references for demographic and health care spending information (lines 101-112)

3. Some more detail may be added to background about strengths of ESA such as, how ESA is an inductive process through which an actual course or operation is analyzed to uncover a series of events that may lead to a particular or desired outcome. The focus here is on the derived model and how ESA may guide a researcher to a particular outcome through preceding events.

Methods

If the primary language was not English: Please describe in which language questionnaire was developed, translated to, and back translated under "Data Collection."
If English was not the primary language of interview: how translations were handled.

Discussion

May add how supply process differs from similar remote areas of New Zealand and UK.

May comment on some suggestions on improving supplies and access to health care using modern technology:

automation; telemonitoring; can pharmacies be decoupled to a certain extent from the dispensing and supply process?; can medication could be directly delivered to the patients with stable chronic conditions?; minimizing mal-distribution across rural areas etc.

Any recommendations for Opioid distribution such as naloxone?

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

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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

Yes

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

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

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

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