Reviewer's report

Title: Doctors' opinion on the contribution of coordination mechanisms to improving clinical coordination between primary and outpatient secondary care in the Catalan national health system

Version: 0 Date: 21 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Ilana Graetz

Reviewer's report:

The paper uses qualitative semi-structured interviews to assess physicians' perspectives on facilitators and barriers to using various mechanisms to coordinate patient care across different networks in Catalan. The topic is universal to every healthcare system and will likely be of interest to readers. Still, the paper could be strengthened by clarifying some ambiguities in the methods and setting, and organizing results.

Specific comments:

1. Review carefully for grammar and clarity.

2. Background - the distinction made between difference types of mechanisms (programming, feedback, and standardization) introduced in the background is not clear and is not followed-through in the results (Tables 2 & 3). Consider re-thinking a framework to categorize the various mechanisms studied, and then organize results using the same framework.

3. The authors state in the intro and discussion that there is limited research on provider's perspective on the how health IT affects care coordination, but fail to cite several relevant published papers. Authors should conduct a more thorough review of the literature, and consider citing some of the following papers:


4. Methods - Clarify if study included all networks in Catalan.

5. Setting - Describe use of EMR and health information exchanges in the region.

6. Methods - Specify how many doctors were contacted? Were all eligible doctors contacted and if not, how were they selected? What percent agreed to participate? Who conducted the interviews? Was there a reason for the year long gap between interviews in the different regions? How many individuals coded the data? Were interviews recorded and transcribed?

7. Results - Start with a brief description of the respondents interviewed.

8. Define coordination mechanisms and provide examples or quotes to illustrate when relevant

9. Table 1 - consider reformatting to make it easier to follow, list characteristics for all participants.

10. Consider moving the current Table 1 as is to the appendix.

11. Include interview guide in the appendix
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.

Unable to assess

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

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

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal