Reviewer’s report

Title: Differences in health literacy profiles of patients admitted to a public and a private hospital in Melbourne, Australia

Version: 1 Date: 11 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Omar Da'ar

Reviewer's report:

The aim and findings of this study are interesting, but I have the following comments:

1. Literature already shows relationship between health literacy and various aspects health care deliver, but I wonder whether the authors justified its value addition to the literature.

2. Uneven sample size of the private and public hospitals is an issue. How and why these two facilities chosen is not explained.

3. Authors used many statistical techniques such as Odds ratios, ANOVA and Cohen's effect sizes, Chi square and multiple logistic regression. These are useful, but can be confusing to reader. Besides, they can yield conflicting results. Choice of statistical methods often dictated by nature of data. That ha not be justified in this case.

4. Authors used backward elimination as strategy for selecting key variables. Often, the choice of such regression method may insinuate the lack of conceptual framework or theoretical association between variables. It should be used as an alternative, especially in the absence of theory underpinning relationship between key variables of interest. I have not seen any justification for doing so.
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.

No

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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