Reviewer’s report

Title: Tuberculosis care for migrant patients in Portugal: a mixed methods study with primary healthcare providers

Version: 0 Date: 23 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Frank Baiden

Reviewer’s report:

General comments:

This paper addresses an important public health program in Portugal. Appropriate methodological approach was used, and the write-up follows standard format.

A major problem with this paper is the quality of writing. The level of English language is less than satisfactory. This makes the paper boring and difficult to read. Extensive proofreading is needed.

I have extracted and put below some sentences that illustrate the need for this paper to undergo extensive proofreading.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with healthcare providers working on TB care at primary care services in Portugal, namely at Chest Disease Centres (CDCs), located in Lisbon region, that is inhabited by more than 182 thousand foreign-born individuals (about 43% of the total 134 foreign-born population in Portugal) [26]

- "A purposive sample of 17 healthcare providers was gathered through snowball sampling [27], 136 including 11 nurses and 6 medical doctors (14 women and 3 men)."

- "Participants were asked to recommend peers possibly interested in participating"

- "The interviews were conducted until reaching data saturation"

- "Ethical approval for this study was granted from the Ethics Committees for Health of the Regional Health Administrations in Portugal"

- "In this mixed-methods study, we were able to gain insights about perception of primary healthcare"

- A considerable proportion of the surveyed providers perceived

Other comments (some still referring to the concern stated above)
Abstract

Requires improvement in the use of language. e.g.

"Tuberculosis (TB) is still a major global health problem, and its increasing incidence among foreign-born populations has been contradicting the decreasing trends observed in later years in some high-income countries."

"Considering that the control of TB and HIV-TB infections clearly has healthcare providers as the main interveners, in this study, we aimed to explore…"

Sentences should be kept as simple as possible

"Migrants' lack of knowledge on TB disease and its symptoms was considered the main factor responsible for an advanced stage of TB disease among these populations, and their mobility and social isolation were referred to hamper their adherence to treatment"

Can be put as

Migrants' lack of knowledge was the main reason for advanced-stage presentation of cases. Their high mobility and social isolation affect adherence to treatment

Conclusion:

An abstract should be concise and contain key information. I will suggest that the statement

"This study was, to our knowledge, the first to explore the views of the healthcare providers about the difficulties faced by TB-infected migrants in Portugal related with seeking care, complying with TB treatment and accessing and using healthcare services dedicated to TB care."

…is not essential and can be excluded.

Background

- More data is needed to justify the statement that TB among foreign-born individuals in Portugal is increasing. The statement that "According to official data, in 2017, 19% of the total TB cases occurred in the foreign-born individuals, 58 and the incidence rate among this population was 5.4 fold higher than the national estimate [3]." is not conclusive enough. Increase in the number of foreign-born individuals in the general population could result in a higher proportion among all cases. Similar, unless adjusted for age, comparison of incidence could be misleading.

- Line 83: "Mixed-methods" imply a combination of "qualitative and quantitative" approaches. The sentence is thus a tautology
- Line 106: "…..email sent to the services" This is not coming out well

- Any evidence to support the statement

"No significant differences were observed between respondents and non-respondents regarding sociodemographic characteristics."?

Suggest you mention at least one parameter that illustrate the point.

- To the extent it was an online questionnaire, how were the sociodemographic characteristics of non-responders determined?

Results

Tables and figures are used to complement descriptive text, but not to substitute it. Results should open with a presentation on the highlights of information contained in Table 1. The table should not substitute this write-up.

The descriptive statistics on the background of participants in the interviews should be done using summary statistics: mean or median (whichever is appropriate) with the appropriate measures of dispersion. Should include gender. This write-up should be revised and put better than it is presently.

Discussion: This section is too long and the quality of writing makes it so difficult to read.

**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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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