Reviewer’s report

Title: Does delay in planned diabetes care influence the quality of clinical management outcomes for Aboriginal Australians?

Version: 1 Date: 18 Oct 2018

Reviewer: James A. Dunbar

Reviewer's report:

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Intuitively, early use of care plans should improve clinical outcomes but you need to do more work to prove the case. Even then you will have to be modest in your claims.

The first line of the aim in the abstract should not end with management but quality of outcomes.

It is compared with not compared to. (Similar to, different from.)

In human studies it is usual to write about men and women. Males and females are used in animal studies. e.g. mice.

Blood sugar is a lay term and should be replaced with blood glucose.

An HbA1c of <6.5 is not normal. It is the cut-off point between prediabetes and diabetes.

Page four, lines 1-2. 'Quality of clinical management' would be better expressed as 'quality of clinical outcomes.'
I think you need to give a better explanation of why blood pressure was unchanged and to show what the mean levels were. You also need to explain why you got findings going in opposite directions.

You cannot infer a cause and effect relationship between delay in care plans and outcomes of HbA1c and hospital discharge. You need to accept that you have not eliminated epiphenomena such as variation in remoteness between groups, differences in access, and poverty.

For me the most striking finding is how poor the quality of care is overall. Almost 2/3 have no care plan, blood pressure is recorded in just over one third and HbA1c in two thirds of cases.

Table 2 you needs to show the actual HbA1c and blood pressure mean levels as well as the information you provide.

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

No

**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.

No

**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 recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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