Reviewer’s report

Title: New Insight into the Informal Patients’ Payments on the Evidence of Literature: A systematic Review Study

Version: 1 Date: 24 May 2019

Reviewer: Charles Normand

Reviewer's report:

The authors have made a good attempt to take on board what was obviously slightly contradictory advice. Overall the analysis is of some interest and provides some useful understanding of the challenges and causes of informal payments. I remain unconvinced by the choice to include studies published and English and Persian - while I can understand that this does potentially allow evidence that would not otherwise be available to be included but can also be the source of bias since papers in other languages similarly be useful but potentially cover different issues. It seems to me to be an unnecessary complication in what aims to be a review of the current state of evidence.

The evidence reviewed aims to understand the reasons for informal payments. At times the authors stray into this being presented as the patterns of informal payments - bringing this material together is useful as a source of understanding of why this phenomenon occurs, but cannot be presented as the patterns since the studies do not set out to discover this.

Most of the text is fine, but there are many grammar and spelling errors, which in some cases could potentially be confusing. There are also some drafting errors such as failing to state what some initials mean. A careful review of the language would make this paper much better.

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?
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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

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