Reviewer’s report

Title: Quality of health care for refugees - a systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 29 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Edward Ng

Reviewer's report:

This paper highlighted results from a systematic review of international quality indicator (QI) databases on health care for refugees, supplemented by a search in reference lists and grey literature. Results showed that main topics identified pertained to reproductive health, health care services and health status, and most indicators related to outcome and structure, less so for process.

This is an informative piece of work reviewing the QI developed for health care for refugees. The application of Donabedian dimensions of health care indicators, in terms of structure, process and outcome quality is useful. This reviewer wants to highlight a few points for improvements.

First, the urgency of this topic for refugees in recent years relates to the tremendous increase of refugees internationally, due to crisis in Syria. This article can be contextualized more appropriate in this context.

Second, international and national indicator databases were used, but in some circumstances, databases at the state or provincial levels could be more appropriate. In the case of Canada, Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is just beginning to examine health equity issue by selected characteristics, such as ethnicity, and immigrant status, that may include refugee status. Other institutes at the provincial level, such as the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario and other provincial research units have been doing pioneering work on refugee health care and health outcome research. It would be important not to miss their research work on refugee cares. Did the mentioned manual search of grey literature and the additional search through PubMed, and the Cochrane Library and Web of Science cover these valuable work at the provincial level in Canada? I imagine the same may occur in other countries.

Last but not least, the sentence on lines 225-228 may contain a typo. The last part re 'they immigrate to the host country' does not make sense in the context of this sentence. Can the authors clarify.

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?
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Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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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:

Acceptable

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