Reviewer's report

Title: Fitness to Practice sanctions in UK doctors are predicted by poor performance at MRCGP and MRCP(UK) assessments: data linkage study

Version: 1 Date: 18 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Matt S. Homer

Reviewer's report:

I thank the authors for their careful consideration of the initial round of comments, their detailed responses to this in their reply, and their subsequent detailed amending of the manuscript. I am very happy to recommend acceptance and have only a couple of very minor additional comments:

1. Bottom of page 6 - just because knowledge tests ('written') are auto-marked doesn't mean there is no potential for bias (what else, then, is evidence of DIF etc?). This little section could be made slightly more nuanced in this regard.

2. The detail on page 7 regarding odds ratios - is this really needed - maybe hive off to an online appendix? It is unreasonable for the authors to have to 'teach' the methodology in such detail.

3. Top of page 9 - just for the benefit of those who struggle with the detailed statistical evidence, could it be spelled out that the AUC in a particular direction means one that the CSA is a better predictor than the AKT etc?

4. The Discussion is quite long now - I think the deeper theorisation of the 'linearity' issue is very welcome, but I wonder if a few (2 or 3) sub-headings might help the reader through it a bit?
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:

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