Reviewer’s report

Title: Morbidity, mortality and missed appointments in healthcare: a national retrospective data linkage study.

Version: 0 Date: 25 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Sreeram Ramagopalan

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study that this reviewer enjoyed reading. As the authors acknowledge that missed appointments and mortality is unlikely to be causal- is there anything that the authors can do can look at this in more detail? They mentioned dementia- can they look at this and other comorbidities in their modelling? Also can any markers of potential disease severity be controlled for?

Presumably some patients will miss appointments because they are hospitalised? Do the authors have access to secondary care data? If not can (repeat) missed appointments be looked at that in terms of those that are close together (e.g. within 30 days) vs those that are missed with a longer time apart (e.g. 3 months) to try and disentangle potential acute vs chronic reasons for missing appointments?

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?
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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.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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