Reviewer’s report


Version: 0 Date: 20 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Lisa Verberne

Reviewer's report:

This is an observational study on weight recording in primary care. I agree that it is important to be aware of the level of weight recording in primary care databases.

Major comments:

- The study is generally well conducted, but in my opinion it contains too much information, which makes it difficult to read. I would therefore suggest to only focus on comorbidities that belongs to the QOF indicators that have incentivised weight recording, i.e. on diabetes, obesity, serious mental health problems, and cardiovascular diseases, and remove the whole list of ICPC symptoms and ICPC diagnosis from the analyses (Table 4). Furthermore, I would suggest to remove the health professionals' roles. I don't think it is really important to know who recorded the weight in general practice.

- The introduction needs some improvement. The aim is not clearly written down in the introduction, and I think it would be interesting to include in the aim that you want to test hypothesis that weight recording is more frequent when incentivised but declines whether the incentives are removed, as is mentioned in the discussion. The sentences in the discussion: "Others have…. removing incentives", would be better placed in the introduction.

- In the discussion it is mentioned "For weight, incentives for recording weight in people with severe mental health problems or diabetes were removed in 2012/13: in this study we observed an overall decline in weight recording after this time." I would suggest to present graphs, such as figure 1a, specifically for patients with diabetes, serious mental health problems, and cardiovascular diseases.

Minor comments:

- Methods line 7: What does "research quality registration" mean?

- Methods line 23: What are weight recording codes?

- Why did you only look at weight recording, and not to both weight and BMI recording?
- Table 1: I would suggest to only calculate percentages over the non-missing categories.

- Maybe good to refer to Table 1 in the results section.

- Table 3: this table only presents data from 2015-2017. Are data from earlier years not available?

- Some abbreviations are not clear to me, e.g. NCRAS cancer registry, IMD data, and ONS mortality data, CPRD Codebrowser.

**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.

Not applicable

**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.

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