Reviewer's report

Title: Age-related differences in working hours among male and female GPs: an SMS-based time use study

Version: 1 Date: 29 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Elaine Pelley

Reviewer's report:

My prior suggestions were fully addressed by the author's revisions. While some of the language issues have been improved in response to Reviewer #2 comments, some further language changes could improve the clarity and sharpness of the writing.

I offer the following rewording suggestions for improved ease of reading:

Page 2

Line 5 "...has decreased, raising concern about current and impending workforce shortages."

Line 7 "a younger" rather than "a new"

Line 28: "GPs in their 40s and 50s worked the highest number of hours, followed by GPs ages 60 and older. GPs younger than 40 worked the lowest number of hours."

Line 52: "It has previously been reported that the difference…"

Line 55: "However, our findings suggest that gender remains a critical factor…"

Page 3

Line 38-40. Would delete sentence starting "A reason very often mentioned…" This sentence is unnecessary.

Line 43: "especially at younger ages, "

Page 6

Line 40: "In so doing, both employment position and gender were able to be coded as dummy variables" (Assuming this is this the correct interpretation of this sentence--as written, I am not sure)
Page 7:

Line 36: "… together, the GPs in our study reported working 44.9 hours per week on average."

Line 43: "GPs in their 40s and 50s worked the highest number of hours, followed by GPs ages 60 and older. GPs younger than 40 worked the lowest number of hours."

Page 13

Line 40: "GPs in their 40s and 50s worked the highest number of hours, followed by GPs ages 60 and older. GPs younger than 40 worked the lowest number of hours."

Page 14

Line 7: "What has not been previously reported is that…"

Line 52 "Van den berg reported that …... however, we found that in 2013"

Page 15

Line 7 "...the share of women in the GP workforce in the Netherlands has increased"

Line 19: "…from other countries to meet this demand."

Page 16

Line 2 - "We speculate that the working hours of younger GPs may be lower related to childcare responsibilities and, conversely, higher at older ages when familial duties are less demanding."

Line 26 - Delete the first "such". Just say "Personal variable such as…"

Line 57 - "…and they elect part time employment more often…” (we do not know if they actually prefer it).
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An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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