Reviewer’s report

Title: National profile of foot orthotic provision in the United Kingdom, Part 1: Practitioners and scope of practice

Version: 0 Date: 11 May 2017

Reviewer: Daniel Bonanno

Reviewer’s report:

This paper is on a topic which I expect will be of interest to readers of JFAR. The study is well executed and the article is generally well written. All of my suggestions are minor and should be easily addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions

1) Abstract, Results: There is no specific reference to foot orthoses being employed by different professions in different ways in the results section, yet this is a conclusion (in the abstract). I suggest this finding should be more explicit in the results section of the abstract if it is to inform the conclusion.

2) Throughout the manuscript. Please change 'data was' to 'data were'. As data is plural it should be written as 'data were…,'

3) Throughout the manuscript. There are several instance where examples are listed but they don't have an 'and' before the last listed item or don't have an 'etc.' at the end. For example (line 119), '(e.g. diabetes, musculoskeletal (MSK), children). Please either change to 'and children' or 'children, etc.'. Please amend this issue throughout the manuscript.

4) Please ensure 'e.g.' is abbreviated the same throughout the manuscript. There are several occasions it is written as 'e.g' (missing a full stop). The same applies to 'i.e.'.

5) Line 142. Please review the fluency of this sentence. I recommend you insert a full stop following the ethics number.

6) Line 154. Please insert 'and' prior to 'Physiotherapists'.

7) Lines 162-176. Some of these points have full stops while others do not. Please make consistent.

8) Throughout the manuscript there are many sentences that start with numerical numbers. Please write these as words so no sentence starts with a number. For example, change '11% had a Higher Diploma.....' to 'Eleven percent had a Higher Diploma.....'. 
9) Line 113: Amend the spacing issue immediately after references [17-20].

10) The terms 'customised' and 'custom orthoses' are used interchangeably (see 'orthoses provided' section). However, later in the manuscript when discussing prefabricated orthoses they are referred to being 'customised' to individual patients (line 496). This could be confusing for readers so I would like the authors to consider if they would prefer to use one term throughout (I prefer 'custom orthoses') for orthoses made from a cast/scan/impression.

11) Line 269: change 'upto' to 'up to'.

12) Line 313: EVA is previously abbreviated yet spelt in full again and abbreviated.

13) Line 341: Amend space between '10-30' and '%'.

14) Some sub-headings have a full stop while others don't. Please make consistent without a full stop.

15) Line 414: insert 'approximately' prior to '350' and remove the symbol.

16) Line 455: Please insert 'and' prior to 'demonstrates'.

17) Line 537: Please consider changing 'outcomes data' to 'outcome data' to avoid using two plural nouns.

Discretionary Revisions

1) Title: There are two sets on colons in the title. I suggest that the authors consider putting 'Part 1' in brackets, so it would read National profile of foot orthoses provision in the UK (Part 1): Practitioners and scope of practice.

2) The terms 'questionnaire', 'survey' and 'survey questionnaire' are used throughout the manuscript interchangeably. I would like the authors to consider if they would prefer to use one term throughout (and if so, which is most appropriate).

3) The name of the professions have capitals used on some occasions, but not consistently throughout the manuscript. Please review this to ensure capitals have been used appropriately.

4) Line 445-446: Please consider rewriting this sentence to improve its fluency.

5) Line 532: Please consider rewriting this sentence to improve its fluency ('evidence' is also used twice in this sentence).

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