Reviewer’s report

Title: Integration of a Podiatrist into an orthopaedic department: a cost-consequences analysis

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Reviewer: Sarah Curran

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Journal of Foot and Ankle Research

Integration of a Podiatrist into an Orthopaedic Department: A Cost-Consequences Analysis

This is an interesting study which provides evidence of cost incentive savings for managers who have orthopaedic and podiatry departments within their institutions. Overall, the paper is well written and provides a range of information, however specific comments are provided below.

Abstract:
Contains relevant and appropriate information.

Background:

The background overall, appears to set the science and places the aim of the study in context. In terms of any previous studies that have explored orthopaedic triage, have any focussed on cost, apart from reference 4?

Methods:

The methods section contained the relevant information with adequate subheadings aiding the flow and delivery of the information.

Results:

The results section are also easy to follow. On page 8 of the manuscript (just before the Costs section); of the 12 who declined their orthopaedic appointments, what were the reasons for the declines?
The cost analysis is interesting and links well with the aim and from these findings there is a clear benefit from the introduction of a Podiatric triage clinic.

Was the timeline for appointments recorded? I appreciate this does not correlate with the aim of the study, but timelines to appointments and outcomes of patients are also important. Can the authors supply this information?

Discussion and Conclusion:

The discussion section again contains relevant information, with links from the current study with prior research. On the second page of the discussion section, lines 9 - 14, the sentence could be worded a little better for understanding and clarity. What types of conditions were referred for the orthopaedic and podiatric triage? I appreciate this request seems basic, but there is likely to be differences, from district to district, region to region and country to country.

The time effectiveness would be an important addition in the discussion and can be linked with the cost analysis, since time is money. The conclusion is appropriate and contains the relevant information, but again, adding the timeline for appointment times would be useful.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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