Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with type of footwear worn inside the house: a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Anita Williams

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for this very interesting paper which explores an important aspect of footwear habits namely indoor usage.

The paper is well written and has clear justification within the background section. The method is well described and the results presented well. Further the results are all discussed well with reference to previous works highlighting the importance of footwear education and behavioural change in relation to the type of footwear worn indoors. A clear result is the disconnection between footwear advice and footwear choices.

There are a few minor amendments which I feel would provide clarity.

First, as the study aimed to investigate indoor footwear choices in the year prior to hospitalisation, the title is a bit misleading. I would consider removing 'inpatient' as this study is not about what they are wearing as an inpatient but what they have worn over a year indoors. Hence indoor or worn in the home should be in the title (as per line 125-6 footwear worn in the home is the focus). The fact that they responded whilst they were an inpatient is just how you recruited.

Can you clarify the statements in relation to the younger participants and lower socio-economic group - in the abstract you state that they are 'less likely to wear socks or go barefoot' then line 201 'less likely to wear no footwear' implying that they would wear some footwear- this is conflicting and unclear.

Did you ask how much time the participants spend in the home compared with outdoor? If you do have this it would provide further context.

232-235 need to clarify that this outdoor footwear type was worn indoors.

For a message to clinicians it is worthy of expanding on the need for patient education and behaviour change strategies in respect of indoor footwear. It may be that clinicians never see what people wear indoors and never ask the question about what is worn- in this respect may need a behaviour change by clinicians. This is an important message.

Abstract- Position of subheading results needs to be moved

Line168 - % missing after 3.4
Line 326 - remove (albeit important)

Again thank you for this paper as it adds to the body of knowledge.

**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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