Reviewer’s report

Title: A pilot study of the duration of GP consultations in Ireland

Version: 1 Date: 05 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Natasha Noble

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed all of my concerns and comments well, thank you. I would like to suggest just a few minor additional edits:

Methods: This section now mentions the 2 week period "in December 2018" when GPs were specifically asked to close the patient file after the consult. I suggest revising this to 'a 2 week period in 2018', given that the period was actually late Nov to early Dec, so could result in confusion.

Results: Should also state the period that data were collected/available for- i.e. "Complete consultation duration data were available for all practices from..." Jan 2010 to Jan 2019.

Results: Validation- I think it would it be worth including a statistical test of the difference in mean duration of consultations in the validation period vs before the validation- just to confirm there was no statistical difference in mean duration.

Discussion- Limitations: I think the potential of the methodology to overestimate (even if only slightly) the duration of consultations, because GPs may not close the file immediately, should also be mentioned.

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