Reviewer’s report

Title: Weight loss as a predictor of cancer and serious disease in primary care: an ISAC approved CPRD protocol for a retrospective cohort study using routinely collected primary care data.

Version: 1 Date: 25 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Melanie Morris

Reviewer's report:

Thank you to the authors for answering many of the reviewers' questions. However, I believe many of their answers can and should be included in an updated manuscript before publication.

I understand that the protocol has been accepted by ISAC and the content of the study, and wording of the protocol, cannot be changed. And I have no doubt that the study will be sound when carried out. However, I believe that what the reviewers are asking for is more explanation of the thought processes and choices in developing the protocol, so that the readers of the journal are not just reading an ISAC protocol, but rather a fully discussed article. I would suggest that many of the questions asked by the reviewers, and answered in the authors' responses, should be included in the discussion of the article.

I suggest that the ISAC protocol itself should be an appendix, while the article itself would give a full introduction/background to the development of the protocol (much of which would come from the protocol, but could go further), brief methods planned (also from the protocol, with some choices explained), and a full discussion of the choices made for the protocol, with strengths and potential limitations, and compromises needed, all discussed - referring where appropriate to the protocol.

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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
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Acceptable
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