Reviewer’s report

Title: Quality and Continuity of Information Between Primary Care Physicians and Rheumatologists

Version: 0 Date: 26 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Iris Navarro-Millan

Reviewer's report:

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This is very interesting article about a very important problem seen in clinical practices. The conclusions are supported by the descriptive data of this study. More importantly, I think that the authors delineated very well the limitations of the study, which gives the reader a clear understanding of how should the data be interpreted and in which context (e.g. single-payer system, retrospective limitations, and risk of misclassification).

Here are my comments:

1. This study was conducted in a single-payer system, which as the authors mentioned, access to rheumatologists depends on referrals. In the discussion they also mentioned that adoption of referral templates have been problematic. Does this mean in Canada in particular or in another country, or private insurance system like the U.S.?

2. It would be interesting to describe if there has been any policy implementation regarding referrals in this public system, as we could assume that since the system is public, policy changes could be easier or less problematic. Regardless, it would be interesting to have a little bit more background on these areas of the single payer system as other countries health care systems where the health care system is mainly private. I think that adding these details in the manuscript will increase the significance of the manuscript, especially when there are skepticism about single-payers system in the U.S. Highlighting or even comparing the findings of this study with studies conducted in private health care systems will show the reader that this may not be a problem of a single-payer system, but that exist at different levels in different systems.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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