

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below. Some articles will have been accepted based in part or entirely on reviews undertaken for other BMJ Group journals. These will be reproduced where possible.

ARTICLE DETAILS

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| TITLE (PROVISIONAL) | Which features of primary care affect unscheduled secondary care use? A systematic review |
| AUTHORS | Huntley, Alyson; Lasserson, Daniel; Wye, Lesley; Morris, Richard; Checkland, Kath; England, Helen; Salisbury, Chris; Purdy, Sarah |

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

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| REVIEWER | Professor Moira Sim Head, School of Medical Sciences Edith Cowan University Australia |
| REVIEW RETURNED | 09-Mar-2014 |

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| GENERAL COMMENTS | <p>There is one sentence that is difficult to understand without going back to the original paper that was reported. Page 12, line 33. It does not clearly explain whether the GP telephone triage is practice specific or a rota system of GPs, and whether the rota system which replaced it was made up of GPs, or other providers. Therefore it's unclear what the change was.</p> <p>This is an important topic and worthy of publication.</p> |
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| REVIEWER | Win Sen Kuan National University Health System, Singapore |
| REVIEW RETURNED | 12-Mar-2014 |

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| GENERAL COMMENTS | <p>Commendable effort in scrutinizing extremely heterogeneous data from various healthcare settings. My main concern is the very lengthy nature of the article where the main message(s) may be lost in the details. A suggestion would be to have 2 separate articles on primary care features and ED attendances; and primary care features and emergency hospital admissions. Tables 1b and 2b are extremely useful for understanding.</p> |
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer one

There is one sentence that is difficult to understand without going back to the original paper p12 line 33

Response from authors

We have clarified the change from triage to rota system reported in the Danish paper. The following sentence has been amended on page 12:

‘Similarly in Denmark, when out of hours care by local GPs was replaced by telephone triage by GPs in a central regional triage centre and geographically larger rota systems, ED visits increased.’

Reviewer two

A suggestion would be to have 2 separate articles on primary care features and ED attendance & primary care features and EHA

Response from authors

We did consider this but felt that the ED and EHA data are intrinsically linked. Also to a greater extent the features of primary care discussed have the same effect on ED and EHA with the main difference being amount of evidence on each feature.

We felt online publishing with BMJ open would allow us to publish the large detailed tables. The text of the article is within the specified word limit. However if the editors feel this should be two papers we would be happy to prepare them as such.