

Review of: "Assessment of Outpatient Management of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases in Abuja Public Hospitals"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Assessment of Outpatient Management of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases in Abuja Public Hospitals

Title:

The term "Assessment" of healthcare services indicates a broader in depth probing rather than evaluating services against specific indicators.

Introduction:

The introduction section appears unfocused as it points to several aspects which per se could be considered a point for further study.

- Interpersonal interaction with healthcare providers.
- Consumer feedback towards the appointment system.
- Methods to reduce waiting time at outpatient clinics.
- Predictors of satisfaction with service for chronic DM and CVS patients.
- The introduction fails to clarify the reason behind studying two different chronic events in terms of management, diagnostic tests, and probably number and time of consultations at outpatient clinics.

The introduction section ends by clarifying a totally different aim for the study;

"This study was carried out *to evaluate the outpatient management of diabetes and CV patients in Abuja public hospitals.*"

Adding a group of specific irrelevant variables to the main aim;

"Specifically, it analyzed the number of consultations in a year, time spent in the hospital on the consultation day, major challenges in accessing trained professionals, and overall management."

Methods:

Study Design:

A prospective cross-sectional design, requires further stipulations.

Samples drawn from hospitals or outpatient clinics are considered a non-probability samples thus not requiring sampling frames.

Assuming a probability sample size formula was used, the authors substituted the prevalence of DM population estimate rather than the yearly number of DM attendees in the selected hospitals. Need not to mention omitting any substitutes for CVS events.

Quota sampling fro DM and CVS events would have been more acceptable.

The following variables are not collected from consumers of the service rather than by an observer;

- number of yearly consultations,
- problems encountered in accessing trained health personnel,
- time (hours) spent in the hospital on appointment days,

The authors did not clearly describe the meaning of the term “management” in the study, major treatment challenges, and ways to improve their experience on hospital visits.

The three questions to describe that “outpatient management as good”

- attending consultation at least four times in a year,
- having no problems in accessing trained health personnel, and
- no treatment challenges

1- No valid rationale was provided behind considering the three statements for evaluating the outpatient encounter as good or bad.

2- A reliable response for the abovementioned statements is obtained from the medical records rather than from consumers.

Accordingly, no further comments on the results and discussion sections would be necessary.

Conclusion:

The authors are requested to undergo major changes and re-writing of the manuscript based upon the data collected and comments from the reviewers to reach a clearly defined aim with relevant results.