

## Review of: "Assessing the financial impact of physician selfreferral on patients and how they cope with payment in Southeast Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you providing me the chance to review this manuscript. During my assessment, I appreciate the logical flow and the way the manuscript was developed. However, I have few comments for the authors that should be addressed before publication.

- 1. Abstract, study setting, please provide space between "outin"
- 2. Abstract, method, "A cross-sectional multistage sampling design...." Needs rewriting as "A cross-sectional design was ...." What does "A cross-sectional multistage sampling design" mean?
- 3. Abstract, findings, why do you mix mean and median to express the total cost?
- 4. Abstract, conclusion: it should be based on the findings of the study
- 5. Introduction, "DP seems like a double-edged sword..." don't start the sentence with abbreviation.
- 6. Introduction, "For example, a study by Blaivas and co..." please rewrite the name of authors as it exists in the reference section
- 7. Introduction "CT" write with word as it exists for the first time
- 8. Introduction "NHS" the same comment to above
- 9. Method, study setting and design, what does "cross-sectional multistage sampling design" mean? Is Unugu the capital city of Nigeria? Otherwise revise the sentence accordingly
- 10. Sampling procedure and data gathering: is there sampling technique called "A cross-sectional multistage sampling design"?
- 11. Stick to one based on what you have did "odd or even" in "This was followed by the application of systematic random sampling to select houses for questionnaire administration using even or odd numbers"
- 12. Table 2, please indicate the conversion rate of Nigerian Naira to dollar. Why you have used the mean for the cost explanation since the cost data violates the normality assumption and skewed
- 13. Limitation section, change "numnber" to "number" and "affected" to "affected"
- 14. Revise the acknowledgment section