Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effects of Care Pathways on the In-Hospital Treatment of Heart Failure: A Meta-Analysis

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
COVER LETTER FOR SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT

Subject: SUBMISSION OF A MANUSCRIPT FOR EVALUATION

Dear editor

Please find attached our manuscript “Effects of care pathways on the in-hospital treatment of heart failure: a Systematic Review” submitted to the BMC Cardiovascular Disorders for review.

Hereby, I would like to inform you that the aforementioned manuscript has not been published or accepted for publication elsewhere or is under editorial review for any publication.

Care pathways (CPs) have become a popular tool to enhance the quality of care by improving patient outcomes, promoting patient safety, increasing patient satisfaction, and optimizing the use of resources. Although CPs have been used since the 1980s, and addressed in many highly distinguished articles in international peer-reviewed journals, there is still an ongoing debate on the effectiveness of care pathways. Our submitted manuscript is the first systematic review to study the impact of care pathways on the treatment of heart failure by assessing four of the most frequently used outcome indicators: in-hospital mortality, length of in-hospital stay (LOS), rate of readmission, and hospitalisation costs.

One of the main findings of our study is that lower mortality and readmission rates and shorter length of stay could be achieved by using CPs without any additional burden on the budget. Also, by combining all possible results, it can be concluded that care pathways for treatment of heart failure decrease mortality rate and length of hospital stay, without increasing the readmission rate and hospitalisation costs.
I believe that the findings obtained from this systematic review would support cardiologists and the management of cardiology services in their quest for excellence and this is the reason why I have decided to submit our paper to your journal.

Best Regards,

Prof. Dr. Massimiliano Panella