Reviewer's report

Title: The Box-Cox power transformation on nursing sensitive indicators: Does it matter if structural effects are omitted during the estimation of the transformation parameter?

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Reviewer: Luwis Diya

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

The paper is well written and interesting to read. The authors did a great job with regards to content and structure of the paper. I would recommend that the paper be accepted. I have minor suggestions though, i.e.,

(1) It is not quite clear the Nursing-sensitive indicators are at the nursing unit level or at the hospital level? That is, are the Patient Falls calculated per nursing unit or per hospital. I would encourage the authors to make this clear [Section: NDNQI database overview].

(2) If the indicators are at a nursing unit level, then the data is multilevel structured. In that case how do the authors address the dependence in the data?

(3) Some skewed data are a result of mixtures which might be a result of some (unobserved) covariate. If the data is skewed is the Box-Cox the only way to solve the problem or is it possible to used mixture modeling?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.