Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of mortality and re-hospitalization in older adults with community-acquired pneumonia: a prospective cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 11 January 2010

Reviewer: Nimalie Stone

Reviewer’s report:

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. In the results section, (pages 8 and 9), the authors may not need to detail all the risk factors with their odds ratios and confidence intervals for the multivariable logistic regression models since they are provided in Tables 3a and 3b. Otherwise there is some redundancy between the text and the tables.

  2. In the discussion section, (page 10), the sentence starting with “Influenza and pneumococcal vaccination, lower functional status, or appropriate…” could be deleted. It doesn’t add anything extra to the discussion section since all of these risk factors are individually addressed in the paragraphs following.

- Discretionary Revisions

  3. In the Data subsection of the Methods section, (page 5) the authors describe using level of education as a proxy for socioeconomic status. Has this strategy been employed or validated in other studies?

  4. In the Results section (page 8), the authors found “hip fracture” to be a significant risk factor for 30-day mortality in the multivariable model. Can the authors specify whether that was a history of hip fracture at any time or if there was a time frame within which the fracture had occurred (e.g. hip fracture within last 6 months). It would be interesting to know whether the majority of hip fractures were recent in time to the admission for community-acquired pneumonia.

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