Reviewer’s report

Title: Medical conditions leading to admission to a nursing home

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2009

Reviewer: Heribert Ramroth

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General comments:
The author investigated the medical reason of a (long-term) nursing home admission. The article reports information that might be useful for nursing home management and public health policymakers, especially for developing interventions to prevent the need for institutionalization.

Minor Essential Revisions
Table 1:
- Men and Women would be better than “Man” and “Woman”.
- It would be better to present percentages, because of different amount of beds per institution.
- Page 7, last paragraph, fourth last line: typing error: “the“
- Table 5: again, absolute numbers do not make so much sense!

Discretionary Revisions
Page 12, 1st paragraph:
- I am not so happy with the formulation: "needs an admission in a RH/NH". I think the “gold standard” for the elderly, if possible to talk about this here, would be to stay in a familiar situation, cared by family members. Nowadays, a lot of external nursing staff supports settings like this, coming from Eastern Europe and helping family members to keep parents at home. In general, it is well known, that admission into RH/NH is often followed by disorientation and hospital admission.

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!