Reviewer's report

**Title:** Medical conditions leading to admission to a nursing home

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 2 September 2009

**Reviewer:** Anette Hylen Ranhoff

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript has been improved and most of the comments by the reviewers have been followed, at least to some extent. However, there are still too many unprecise statements and the language should be improved. The manuscript can still be shortened.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The disposition of the paper is not clear enough. There are parts of the result sections that should have been included in the methods, like how to classify disorders (p 4 bottom). Some of the text in the result section, i.e."this third issue also...dear one" on page 4, a substantial part of paragraph 3 and first paragraph of p 8, could have been included in the discussion section - where such comments about data quality are more appropriate. Generally the discussion about data quality should be improved.

The conclusion is not concise enough. Stay more strict to the findings.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

The use of sitations from other studies should be replaced by statements like "these findings were confirmed by others (ref)".

In the discussion, paragraph 2 p 9, the statement "who are confused in case of delirium, stroke or Parkinson" is unclear and incorrect. Delirium (or confusion) was not assessed in this study and the authors description of confusion should be deleted. It would be better to comment on cognitive impairment which can have other causes than dementia (i.e. delirium), and if the diagnostic process of dementia is insufficient can cause misclassifications.

In the discussion it is briefly mentioned that diseases like stroke and diabetes only are important for institutionalisation if they cause functional disability. This is a major point! And it is also subject for prevention of need for institutionalisation. If the diseases, like stroke and diabetes, are treated well their consequences will be less severe.

In this line, the expression "the severity of a disease must be high enough" should be replaced with ....diseases leading to functional impairment.

In 2.3 in the discussion, about prevalence of dementia, references are lacking and the "if we spread this last group...." is not good enough.

In 2.4. Lack of a standardized instrument; such instruments are available, i.e.
Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) for nursing homes.

Discretionary Revisions

Stroke and hemiplegia are to different diagnoses in the study. The far most common cause of hemiplegia is stroke.

Psychosis is used as a group-diagnosis also including dementia in 1993. This is confusing and should be better explained - and mentioned as a weakness of the data quality.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.