Reviewer's report

**Title:** A prospective study of symptoms, function, and medication use during acute illness in nursing home residents: design, rationale and cohort description

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 February 2010

**Reviewer:** Timo Strandberg

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The MS describes the design and baseline data of a cohort of nursing home residents using psychoactive drugs. The aim is to collect prospectively data about acute illness burden and specifically about medication interrupt and possible withdrawal symptoms. The results will be probably straightforward and of interest to geriatricians and other doctors treating nursing home residents.

The cohort is well described and valid methods are used. Power calculations are realistic and ethical approval is ok.

**Major points:**

My major query relates to how this population, especially the VA cohort being relatively "young", is comparable to nursing home residents in general. This should be commented.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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