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: 4 Date: 15 April 2010

Reviewer: Mark McCann

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions:

Check spelling & grammar in abstract, sentence on study period.

This isn’t directly necessary for the text, however producing the linear mixed models via MCMC estimation (e.g. with MLwiN) may help the estimation for multiply adjusted models or those with smaller effect sizes.

I look forward to reading more on the results of the study.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests