Reviewer's report

Title: Mothers and daughters-in-law: A prospective study of informal care-giving arrangements and survival in Japan

Version: 1 Date: 19 April 2010

Reviewer: Daniel J Van Dussen

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) Please discuss why one month was used as the cutoff for the dichotomous number used for LTCI service utilization. Is this due to an official definition for receiving care or for another reason?
2) In the final paragraph of the analysis section, did the authors control for health status (or in this case the level of care) needed? This may be something to look at for strengthening the argument for elevated mortality.

Minor Essential Revisions
1) Some minor grammatical errors in the text. One example is found in the first paragraph of the introduction. Change "the commonest sources" to "most common."

Level of interest: An exceptional article

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'