Reviewer's report

Title: Use of health services and medicines amongst Australian war veterans aged 95 years and over

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Reviewer: Karen Farris

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Use of health services and medicines amongst Australian war veterans aged 95 years and over

General comments
This paper is nicely written and clear.

Specific comments – minor essential revisions
1. The question is well defined, except I thought they would also report surgeries and ER visits separately as healthcare services used.
2. Methods are not well described. I am unclear how the rates per year were calculated. Is the denominator person-year…?it does not appear to be so as there are 1 year of data and everyone contributed one year? I fully understand the rate ratio. I am also unclear then why rates per year were not reported for medication categories.
3. Data appear sound but calculation of rate per year is not clear and should be clarified.
4. Tables 2 and 3 should indicate on the table that they are calculated with poisson regression.
5. Is the chi-square analyses really important? If yes, please include why. The discussion focuses primarily on rate ratios findings.
6. The authors assert that specific medicines in certain classes may be problematic but they do not present data to support their assertion related to specific medicines. For example, no data are reported about long action benzo but the authors suggest their use is problematic in the discussion. As well, for ‘cardiac therapy’ unless that category is limited to amiodarone, it is unclear why use appears of concern. I think this paragraph is reaching, given that these particular data are not reported.
7. Given the population and sample selection, couldn’t some participants be 94, given that the previous year was obtained? Into which group were they assigned?
8. Well done. Interesting.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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.