Reviewer's report

Title: Are elderly people with co-morbidities involved adequately in medical decision making when hospitalised? A cross-sectional survey

Version: 1 Date: 4 April 2011

Reviewer: Shaun O'Keeffe

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

This is an informative and well written study of an important topic. The use of the Degner scale seems well suited to this subject. The statistical analysis is appropriate. There is a useful and well-referenced discussion to put the results into context.

The authors acknowledge the main limitation which is the low response rate. This is probably unavoidable in such a study. I have two minor points to make. The authors might wish to discuss whether assessment of people while in-hospital might improve the response rate. Secondly, the percentage noted to have dementia (4%) is low: formal assessment of cognition and of comprehension skills in future studies will reveal the degree to which this may contribute to difficulties with providing information

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:

No to all