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: 31 May 2011

Reviewer: Hirono Ishikawa

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript.

This paper studied the role that elderly people with co-morbidities wish to play with regard to information and participation in medical decision making, and perceived barriers to participation.

General comments:

There have been many studies investigating patients' preferred and actual levels of information and participation in medical decision making, concordance between the preferred and actual levels, and barriers to participation. Although few studies targeted the oldest age groups as the authors noted, the novelty of the findings of this study is not clear to me. Also, the age effect and cohort effect should be considered in interpreting the results. (i.e. Are the findings generalizable to future oldest age population as well, or is it somewhat specific to this cohort?)

Specific comments:

# Abstract

The purposes of the study are not clearly stated in the abstract.

# P.7: The response options for the patient’s preferred and actual information seeking roles

What were the leading questions for these response options? How the questions and response options were developed and validated? They do not seem to fully measure patient “preference” or “actual role” for information seeking. The response options are not on a single axis and not mutually exclusive.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.