Reviewer's report

Title: Unmet need and psychological distress predict emergency department visits in community-dwelling elderly women: a prospective cohort study

Version: 5  Date: 22 November 2011

Reviewer: Laura Sands

Reviewer's report:

I would like to suggest that the paper be sent to an expert in statistics. There are two issues raised by one or both reviewers that were not addressed in the current version of the manuscript. The first issue is whether there is sufficient power to test whether unmet needs for PADL is associated with emergency department admission. The second issue is whether the change in the direction of the association between unmet PADL needs and ER admission from the bivariate test to the multivariable model warrants diagnostic testing of the logistic regression model. I defer to the expertise of a statistician to determine whether the authors should address these issues.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received NIH funding to study the association between unmet needs for ADL disability and health outcomes. The publication of this paper will not affect this funding.