Reviewer's report

Title: Use of Warfarin in Long-Term Care: A Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 15 December 2011

Reviewer: Stefano Volpato

Reviewer's report:

This is a detailed and well written review on the use of anticoagulant therapy in LTC. The work is well organized and the literature updated. The authors addressed a very important, although difficult, issue in geriatric medicine. I have only one major concern that relates with conclusion reported both in the abstract and in the text.

The authors concluded that the suboptimal prescription of warfarin in LTC is likely to be associated with substantial adverse consequences for patients, families, hospitals, and payers. I believe that a careful estimate of the benefit/risk ratio of this therapy among the oldest old is very difficult. Furthermore, this aspect was not specifically addressed over the literature review process, and therefore this conclusion is not supported by the results presented and looks a little out of the contest. The authors should consider to revise the paragraph and at least attenuate a bit their conclusions.

Specific comments:
Page 10, line 9: the sentence: ?Lapane et al?.did not increased significantly following the introduction of clopidogrel?..is not clear to me. Why should warfarin use increase after the introduction of a new antiplatelet agents? Please, clarify of delete this sentence.
Page 11, the ORs of 50.95 (line 5) and 1.06 (line 16) are non consistent with the reported 95% CI.
Page 15, line 6 : ??low sample size? should read small sample size?.
Page 15, line 22: ??chronic AF should read permanent FA?. 