Reviewer's report

Title: How effective are programs at managing transition from hospital to home? A case study of the Australian Transition Care Program

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Reviewer: Karen Hirschman

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript 'How effective are programs at managing transition from hospital to home? A case study of the Australian Transition Care Program'. Overall a very interesting program with the intent to provide support older adults in the transition from acute to community care. The paper, though well written, could benefit from some revisions to both clarify and strengthen the manuscript for publication. Below are some guided suggestions:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Some seminal literature appears to be left out of the background section. In particular work by Dr. Mary Naylor’s team is not cited in the introduction. Her team has completed three randomized controlled trials on the Transitional Care Model (published in 1994, 1999, 2004). Their work has shown both cost and readmission reductions among the same population described in this case study. This work should be sited along side the work of other researchers such as Coleman et al.

2) There needs to be more information on what or who makes up the parts of this TCP intervention in Australia. Some detail on the types of staff that provide this program across Australia would be useful. It is unclear if there are some components of this program that might work better for some “subgroups” of older adults.

3) Table 1 could benefit from additional detail on the sizes (i.e., N’s along with the percents) and detail on the “hazard of admission as well as when the suggested instruments under “To Optimize Functional Capacity” are/should be completed.

Minor Essential Revisions

There are a number of terms used for the same thing – institutional care, permanent residential aged care, long-term residential aged care, nursing home type setting. The language must be streamlined before moving forward.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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’