Reviewer's report

Title: Psychosocial Factors Associate with Frailty and Outcomes of Frailty: an Observational Study of Hospitalised People

Version: 1 Date: 7 May 2014

Reviewer: Richard Lindley

Reviewer's report:

This is a well conducted prospective study of the influence of psychosocial factors on outcome in frail hospitalised patients. This will be of great interest to those interested in the "frailty" syndrome and will contribute to further developments of comprehensive geriatric assessment and treatment in hospital.

In addressing the reviewer check list:

The question posed by the authors is well defined. I particularly liked the phrase "Hospitals provide a fundamental location in which to study frailty, due to their crucial turning-point role in patient decline".

The methods were appropriate and well described in a prospective design.

The data were sound.

The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting.

The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Limitations of the work clearly stated.

The authors clearly acknowledge and reference work upon which they are building.

The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) To make your paper easier to understand I would recommend you add further text to help your reader understand the results, especially in Table 2. For this rather complex table it would be worth talking the reader through one particular section to fully explain what each HR (or OR) means, for example the results for 12 month mortality and low QoL. Go through what the model 1 results mean, how this is changed by including frailty in the regression model, and then explaining what the lowQoL*Frailty interaction term means and why it has a greater value (and statistical significance). In this way, the readers will be able to follow the other results in this Table.

2) Were there any frailty*married interactions results?

Minor Essential Revision

1) It would be better to state that: “All eligible patients or their authorized
proxy were approached to obtain informed consent.”

2) Spell out Geriatric Evaluation and Management Unit, when first mentioned in the main text.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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