Reviewer's report

**Title:** Long-term prediction of changes in health status, frailty, nursing care and mortality in community-dwelling senior citizens - results from the Longitudinal Urban Cohort Ageing Study (LUCAS)

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 11 November 2014

**Reviewer:** Ruth Hubbard

**Reviewer's report:**

**Impression**

The aim of this study was to derive a Functional Ability Index: a self-reported questionnaire operationalizing the Fried phenotype plus health resources. Cross sectional associations of the FA index are described and, more interestingly, it is related to institutionalization and death over 6 years of follow up.

The paper is well written and current literature is soundly referenced. The cohort is moderately sized and participants comprehensively evaluated. The rationale for the study is clear. The study does have significant limitations, but these are addressed in adequate detail by the authors.

**Major Points**

The terminology PreFrail 1 (risks plus resources) and PreFrail 2 (neither risks nor resources) is confusing and difficult to follow. Since neither group is archetypally “pre-frail” (with 1 – 2 Fried criteria), the authors could consider renaming these 2 categories.