Reviewer’s report

Title: Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations by Cognitively Impaired Tube-Fed Nursing Home Residents: A National Study

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Reviewer: Danan Gu

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1. The study sample includes NH residents with an MMSE score of greater than 24 whose cognitive function is normal. Furthermore, some scholars even argue that the cut-off point of MMSE score for a normal cognition could be as low as 18 if the years of schooling of a person is less than 6 years. In these contexts, the title of the paper is somewhat not appropriate in that its only studied the residents whose cognitive function is impaired.

2. How many NH residents are using TF? What is the percentage of NH TF residents had unnecessarily ED and hospital visits? These numbers may be informative to readers/reviewers/editors to see how important of this study is.

3. I also assume that ED and hospital visits may be related to NH residents' health condition and the facility availability of a nursing home. In what situation did the ED and hospital visits happen? What are main causes? Such information should be taken into modeling. In the case of unavailability of some of these data, the authors should at least note them in the text.

4. Some typos
   Abstract, Background: CI, CMS should be spelt out.
   Abstract, Methods: Line 8, MMSE=0.4 should be MMSE=0-4. This is also true for the last paragraph on Page 13.

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