Reviewer’s report

Title: Age and gender differences in the prevalence and patterns of multimorbidity in the older population

Version: 4 Date: 8 May 2014

Reviewer: Cara Tannenbaum

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have addressed many of the issues requiring revision and the manuscript is much improved. In particular, the supplementary material clarifies which conditions were included and how the patterns were constructed. The title now better reflects the results of their analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract, Methods: please close the bracket after the word (PG).

Discussion, 1st sentence: correct the word “individual” to “individuals”, and “over 65” to “65 years and older”.

Discussion, 3rd sentence, please remove the word conforming and just write “disease patterns”.

Discussion, paragraph starting with The CM pattern, 2nd sentence, replace the word “population” with “persons”.

Discussion, paragraph starting with Regarding the gender differences, first sentence, please remove repetition of the words “could be” which are written twice in a row.

Conclusion, 1st paragraph, last sentence. Please correct to “…the PG pattern was most prevalent in the oldest age group”.

Figure 1: Please clarify in the legend that the proportions in the circles represent the frequency of non-overlapping disease patterns.

Figure 2: It is not clear in this figure how sex is differentiated. Please label the x and y axis.

Table 3 + 4: Please indicate the n for each age and sex group (how many men were aged 65-74 etc.)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.