Reviewer's report

Title: Emergency ambulance service involvement with residential care homes in the support of older people with dementia: an observational study

Version: 2 Date: 16 April 2014

Reviewer: Glenn Arendts

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading this redrafted paper and I think it contains some useful data. Apart from the conclusion, which I feel does not coherently relate to the rest of the paper, I have only very minor suggestions.

Discretionary:

a. Remove the words "by older people with dementia in residential care homes" from sentence 2 para x of the introduction
b. Change "using" to "from" as the fifth word in the first sentence of the methods
c. Remove the words "predictors of contact with emergency ambulance services included" and replace with "we modeled"
d. The words "and we proceed with caution as regards interpretation of results" can be removed from page 10.

Minor:

Perhaps you could provide details of how the logistic regression was done in the methods section? Were all potential variables entered into the model or were they tested in a stepwise fashion?

Major:

I believe the conclusion again needs to be rewritten, to tie in with the rest of the paper. There is no data presented regarding 12 month mortality, end of life care etc of the residents in this study, so it seems wrong to make end of life care the focus of the conclusion. The conclusion to be drawn from this study is ambulance usage in homes of the type studied is high, largely for ACS conditions and to some extent predictable.

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

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