Reviewer's report

**Title:** Evaluating quality of care in Geriatric Evaluation and Management Units by a Chart review method and a tracer case

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 1 April 2009

**Reviewer:** Marc M. Bonnefoy

**Reviewer's report:**

Evaluating quality of care is a major problem for hospitalized elderly people, and standardized process of care should be developed. The main objective of this work is to construct a geriatric care tool (GCT) in order to assess quality of care in GEMU.

Admission for a fall has been considered as a tracer case. Authors have retained five dimensions to assess quality of care. Steps involved in the development of the GCT are precisely described. Content is extensive and exhaustive thus this tool should be useful.

Several points deserve however explanations.

**Major revisions**

It should be discussed more precisely why falls have been chosen more specifically as a tracer among other geriatrics syndromes or adverse events. Why the hypothesis of the construction of a tool able to evaluate the different points of routine comprehensive geriatric assessment has not been considered to evaluate quality of care should be also discussed.

The major problem with the proposed tool is probably its ability to be operational in GEMU. Weaker reliability was observed for items requiring a synthesis as functional assessment or specifics interventions that are however crucial.

The complexity of falls mechanisms may be responsible for real difficulties for a standardized evaluation for geriatric care. It should be probably a necessity to test the GCT (feasibility) in the various GEMU to ensure it is really useful for measuring quality of care. This point should be developed.

**Minor revisions**

Presentation of tables should be improved.

The title should be modified as following for example: “Evaluation quality of care in geriatric evaluation and management units: construction of a chart review method for a tracer case”.

**Conclusion:** it should be acknowledged that GCT should be evaluated in GEMU, since this work is above all a description of the methodology used to develop this instrument.
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.