Author's response to reviews

Title: What is the real impact of acute kidney injury? Outcomes in a typical general hospital setting. A retrospective observational database study

Authors:

Michael Bedford (michael.bedford@nhs.net)
Paul E Stevens (pstevens@nhs.net)
Toby WK Wheeler (twheeler@nhs.net)
Chris KT Farmer (chris.farmer1@nhs.net)

Version: 4 Date: 8 May 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Moranne,

Thank you for asking us to re-submit our manuscript following the additional reviewer minor essential revisions.

We believe we have addressed each point and made the necessary revisions. Below we have documented each of the queries and written a response to each in turn.

If you have any questions or further queries then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for giving this article your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Bedford        Paul Stevens        Toby Wheeler        Chris Farmer
Reviewer: Raymond Hsu

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed my previous comments adequately. Just a few additional minor recommended revisions:

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1. Please include your reference for census estimates (currently reference #28) in the Methods section when describing the population totals.

We have now included this reference.

2. Description of the 3 regression models should be further clarified: first model is unadjusted; second model is adjusted for age and gender; third model is adjusted for age, gender, primary diagnosis, modified Charlson co-morbidity score, and stage of chronic kidney disease? (This is my interpretation of your methods). However, the text accompanying Table 3 seems to imply that model 3 is adjusted only for Charlson score. Please clarify explicitly.

We have provided further explanation of the variables included in model 3 in the text accompanying Table 3.

3. Please explicitly state that baseline stage of chronic kidney disease is defined using the baseline creatinine (lowest creatinine in the 12 months prior to admission), or the post-discharge nadir creatinine was used for the subset of patients without a pre-hospitalisation creatinine), when describing chronic kidney disease stage as an Independent Variable under Methods.

We have now stated this in the methods.

4. There is probable a typo in Table 4: row “Model 1,” and column “Relative Length of Stay.” The AKIN Stage 3 ratio and the 95% CI’s listed here seem to be erroneous (perhaps order switched between the 3 numbers?)

This is indeed an error and we have corrected this in the manuscript.