Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3
Date: 24 April 2014

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.

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.

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.

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?)

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.