Reviewer's report

Title: Multimorbidity prevalence and patterns across socioeconomic determinants: a cross-sectional survey

Version: 2 Date: 10 January 2012

Reviewer: Helena Britt

Reviewer's report:

This paper is much improved.

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Page 11: Interpretation of Table 5. I believe this paragraph needs to be re-written. I think you have it the wrong way round. I believe it should read:
(from sentence 2 onwards).

   ‘In persons aged 25-44 years those more likely to have multimorbidity were:
those with an annual income less than $100,000; and those NOT living with
children aged 16 years or younger. Among those aged 45-64 years,
multimorbidity was significantly more likely among females; those with a
household income of less than $100,000; those NOT living with children. Finally
among persons aged 65 years or more, Multimorbidity was significantly more
prevalent among: females; those with a household income of less than $30,000;
those who did NOT live with children aged 16 years or less.’

   The point is
   a) direction of the result, and
   b). the independence of each result after adjusting for the other variables (i.e.
      they are not more likely to be female ANF more likely to be something else).


   I am sorry I failed to pick this up on the previous review.

   There are no denominators in this table, so when I read the result in the Results
   section I did not know if (e.g.) Hypert-depression/anxiety-chronic pain –arthritis
   was 5.4% of the total or of an unknown number of those with four of the
diseases.

   Please add denominators in each subsection of the table – e.g. in the line
   Disease pairs, under ‘frequency’ put n= 383? ( this is my calculated estimate -
   may not be exact) and do the same for each subsection, so we know the
denominator – then to make it clear draw a line between the subsections of the
   table. Please also make it clear in the Results that the denominator is (e.g.) of
   those with 4 etc.
3. Numbering of figures and reference in body to Figure.
You have (as suggested) removed Figure 1. You need to update the reference to Figure 2 in the body of the paper—and make it Figure 1. Also update the label of current Figure 2, to Figure 1.
Discretionary Revisions: None

**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