Reviewer’s report

Title: Living arrangements, chronic diseases, and prescription drug expenditures among Korean elderly: Vulnerability to suboptimal medication use.

Version: 2
Date: 17 October 2014

Reviewer: Chang Hyung Hong

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. It is better to explain the precise definition or criteria of ‘suboptimal medication use’. And it is necessary to provide a proper reference of it if this is important concept to use in the title. For example, Joseph T.H. et al (2001) suggested 3 major categories of suboptimal prescribing 1) overuse or polypharmacy 2) inappropriate use 3) underuse.

2. In Method section, you suggested the number of chronic disease were classified into 4 groups: none, one, two, and three or more. However, this categorization was inconsistent throughout your article. For instances, when we took a closer look in table 1 and figure 1, you divided participants into 3 (0-1, 2, 3+) in table 1 and 4 (0, 1, 2, 3+) groups in figure 1 respectively. Moreover, I didn’t understand the categorization of ‘1 chronic diseases or more’ and ‘2 chronic diseases or more’ in table 2 because these two groups overlapped.

3. In discussion, it is better to suggest the reason why the statistical significance of the relationship between living alone and OOP medical expenditure, OOP prescription drug expenditure in Model 2 was disappeared in Model 3.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Need to suggest a full term in abstract.
2. Is it odds ratio of values in table 3? Write down in footnote or your table.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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