Reviewer's report

Title: Individual Education, Area Income, and Mortality and Recurrence of MI in a Medicare cohort: The National Longitudinal Mortality Study

Version: 1 Date: 29 December 2013

Reviewer: Vicki Myers

Reviewer's report:

• Minor Essential Revisions

1. Introduction, last paragraph: "Area SES was defined using the beneficiary’s median zip code". This is somewhat confusing and should be changed to: the median income in the patient’s zip code.

2. Methods, 1st paragraph: Please add a reference for the NLMS

3. Methods, Covariates: "placed into quintiles" change to "divided into quintiles"

4. Results, Recurrence: Please explain why the result of zip code level median income quintile 4 associated with lower long-term recurrence might be a false-positive, and provide possible interpretation for this unexpected result in the discussion.

5. Discussion, 1st paragraph: the authors should consider adding that associations between SES and mortality were modest, to qualify their statement with some sense of the size of the association

6. Discussion, 4th paragraph: grammar – change to: associated with a longer pre-hospital delay and lower likelihood of being treated at hospitals with catheterization facilities

7. Discussion, 5th paragraph: grammar – change to: associations were more pronounced for income rather than education

8. Discussion, 6th paragraph: grammar – change to: while geographic subdivisions such as census tract

9. Tables 2-5: Please add definitions for HRR (is this hazard ratio or relative risk?), HS, BS

• Discretionary Revisions

1. The study question could be more clearly defined, specifically emphasizing how the current study adds to previous research on the same question, both in the introduction and the discussion.

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