Reviewer's report

Title: Validating the Johns Hopkins ACG Case-Mix System in Swedish primary health care.

Version: 1 Date: 16 March 2006

Reviewer: Barbara Starfield

Reviewer's report:

General
This is generally interesting article on the subject of measurement of co-morbidity in individuals and populations.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. Title: ADD the words 'of the elderly'
2. Abstract: CHANGE the last word (co-morbidity) to 'use of resources, such as medications'
3. Background, 8th sentence: ADD, after 'planning', 'for management of clinical care'. In the following sentence, change 'chairs' to providers'
4. Background, end of first paragraph: change 'is an individual based condition' to 'uses the individual as the unit of analysis for clinical and population purposes'.
5. Background, second paragraph: CHANGE TO POnlypharmacy is associated with treatment of....and represents the doctor's assessment...
6. Independent variable Comorbidity: change to "This each ACG describes patients with the same type and degree of co-morbidity'.
7. Covariables, ADL: CORRECT spelling of 'continence'
8. Results: "the Study comprised the first....' 
9. Discussion, third sentence: '...information on the biologic severity of the diagnoses, the individual's....'
10. Discussion, end of third paragraph: CHANGE TO 'The variance in health care cost explained by the Johns Hopkins ACG case-mix system in a Canadian and Spanish study was larger....'
11. Discussion, 5th paragraph: CHANGE 'identifies' to identify'
12. Last paragraph of Discussion: CHANGE TO 'The results of this study.....in the study, although we believe it unlikely....eliminated, which is why we suggest a comorbidity measure based on additional different factors. Work on establishing.....if this measure holds in other clinical settings.'
13. Conclusion: ADD, at the end of the last sentence '...of health and functioning.'

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I am the co-developer of the Johns Hopkins ACG Case-Mix system, as reflected in reference 12 in the paper.