Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors for length of hospital stay in patients with community-acquired Pneumonia: Results from a Multicenter study

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Reviewer: Andrew Shorr

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This analysis represents a secondary evaluation of a well known CAP study and focuses on variables related to LOS. I have several major concerns.

1. The finds are really not as novel as the authors assume. The essential finding is that sicker people are sicker and that sicker people stay longer. This has been shown in one way or another in multiple other settings.

2. They do not compare their new decision rule in anyway to other severity tools for CAP (eg CURB65 or CRB65). Failing to do so leaves the reader wondering how their score really adds to anything.

3. They do not control for confounding for hospital death. LOS in inpatient decedents is very different from that in survivors. They need to examine this.

4. As I recall ProHosp excluded some of the sickest pts and this is a major limitation.

5. No where do the authors detail how they chose what points to assign for each of the HRs. This needs to be transparent.

6. There is no assessment of the goodness of fit of their score. They should at the least present ROC curves for LOS with the score.

7. As with 6 above there is no effort to even internally validate the sample with either a sampling and replacement approach or with a split cohort validation approach. The sample is large enough so this could have been done. Validating it in that way would have made it more useful.

8. They provide no data on process of care variables known to influence LOS in cap -- namely appropriateness of initial abx tx and exposure to corticosteroids. These are crucial confounders.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

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 I have no competing interests