Reviewer's report

Title: Health-related quality of life after vertebral or hip fracture: a seven-year follow-up study

Version: 3 Date: 21 September 2009

Reviewer: Lisa Lix

Reviewer's report:

The authors have responded to most of my previous queries and comments, but there are still some points that require clarification in this manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions

Are the partial correlations based on the Pearson correlation coefficient? If so, how did the authors incorporate discrete covariates into these analyses given that the Pearson coefficient assumes the variables are continuous and normally distributed. This should be described in the Methods section.

Please clarify the following sentence…

Overall, most parametric methods were chosen in the analyses due to the age-matched and weight-adjusted design for the reference group, regarding normative values for SF-36.

The sentence suggests that the choice of analytic techniques was based on sampling weights, but this is not clear from the description of the analysis procedures.

Table 4 does not correspond with the aims of the study and should therefore be revised. In the Methods section, the authors indicate that they test the difference between the hip and vertebral groups on the difference between the two-year and seven-year assessments, which is consistent with aim 1. However, they do not report these results. Instead, Table 4 focuses on the difference between the hip and vertebral groups on the seven-year assessment only. Moreover, Table 4 comes after Table 3, which reports the results for aim 2. The aims should be dealt with in sequence in the Results section and data that correspond with the aims should be reported in the tables.

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**: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests**:  
I declare that I have no competing interests.