Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors influencing inpatient rehabilitation length of stay following revision hip replacements: A retrospective study

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2010

Reviewer: Henrik Husted

Reviewer’s report:

A well written paper of high academic content - however, as a clinician I do have some problems with the study

Major Revisions:
- no care path was in use and the discharge criteria were virtually non-existent as it was discussed on a weekly basis whether or not the patient mobilized safe independent or supervised in a proper environment - how do the authors think this would influence on LOS in a retrospective study (with a case mix on top of it)???
- Mean LOS was 29.6 days (how is LOS counted) - it is an extremely long LOS - and makes no sense in the light of the set-up discussed above. I have a serious problem with an end point (LOS) that is set without strict discharge criteria being enforced on a daily basis (here it was once a week).
- how can an environmental barrier be 2 steps or more at home? This is no different for primary hips - and absolutely not a barrier for discharge - as all patients (except wheel chairs/walkers) achieve this fairly quickly. At my institution revisions stay approximately 3-4 days or even shorter.
- why is support necessary in the day time? If safe mobilization is achieved no special help should be needed at home?

I will need to see some answers to these serious questions - as it stands now publication is not recommended, sorry.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 that I have no competing interests'