Reviewer's report

Title: Trends in knee arthroscopy and subsequent arthroplasty in an Australian population: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 10 March 2013

Reviewer: Megan Bohensky

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to re-review this manuscript. I am satisfied that the authors have addressed the majority of my queries. In light of the new information provided, I would like to request the following three revisions (the first is discretionary, the second two are essential revisions).

1) The authors have advised that “The rates of missing data pertaining to procedure codes not entered cannot be quantified, as the procedure code was used as an inclusion criteria.”

Discretionary Revision #1
Would it be possible to obtain information on the rate of missing procedure codes from CHeReL administrators? This could give the readers an understanding of the potential extent of missed cases. However, I appreciate this might not be possible

Minor Essential Revision # 1
The potential for selection bias (i.e. excluding cases with missing procedures codes) should also be noted in the limitations section.

2) In the limitations section, sentence 4, the authors state “To address this limitation, we undertaken an audit for two of the institutions.”

Minor Essential Revision # 2
Could you please indicate in this section, that the audit of 42 records was based on convenience sampling methods and state the time period that the audit covered?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.