Reviewer's report

Title: Validation of ICD-9-CM Coding Algorithm for Improved Identification of Hypoglycemia Visits

Version: 1 Date: 10 January 2008

Reviewer: Vijaya Sundararajan

Reviewer's report:

"Validation of ICD-9-CM coding algorithm for improved identification of hypoglycemia visits" is a well-written and sound manuscript describing a validation of the positive predictive value (PPV) of a diagnostic coding algorithm for hypoglycemia. The authors have collected their sample from data pertaining to three large emergency departments in the US. Their sample size is reasonable for the estimation of PPV and their results are presented well. In particular, Figure 1, a flow diagram of their coding algorithm is very helpful. Although limited to ICD-9-CM (many nations have moved to ICD-10), their work is a significant step in understanding the coding for hypoglycemia.

Discretionary Revisions
1. The extension of the study data to sensitivity and specificity cannot be seen to be a major strength of the manuscript. In their limitation section, I would prefer to see the authors be very clear that their study method can assess the PPV of the coding algorithm and any inferences they may make on sensitivity and specificity are very limited.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions