Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of Place of place of death: a population-based retrospective cohort study.

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2013

Reviewer: Dave Lu

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Discussion, fourth paragraph, is the result of Asians and place of death possibly due to more Asians living in urban areas? Or do more Asians die from cancer, rather than cardiovascular disease, and therefore more of them die in hospitals as the study’s other conclusion suggests? Similarly in the fifth paragraph, I worry that place of birth is too complicated a factor to use as a determinant in making any conclusion about place of death. Two individuals who were both born in China may have very different places of death based on their age upon immigration, language skills, assimilated or non-assimilated children, etc. There may be associations between age of immigration and assimilation into Canadian culture, for example, that actually might be influencing place of death. This, however, would NOT be reflected in the crude measure of "place of birth," and therefore may muddy the picture and any conclusion we can draw from it.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Discussion, first paragraph, careful about use of the word "determined." Consider replacing with "associated with" since you can't show cause and effect here.

2. Discussion, second paragraph, final sentence, did the authors mean "hospital" instead of "extended care"?

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Background, third paragraph, fix wording in final sentence.

2. Results, second paragraph, consider taking out "expected pattern," since I would not be surprised if 50-year-olds more frequently died in hospital. The only expected pattern I would have predicted is that older individuals died more frequently in extended care facilities. This sentence, however, addresses home deaths, the results of which - whatever they may be - I would not say is obviously intuitive.

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.