Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of data completeness in the electronic health record for the purpose of patient recruitment into clinical trials: a retrospective analysis of element presence

Version: 2 Date: 12 December 2012

Reviewer: Vitaly Herasevich

Reviewer's report:

Manuscript is addressing important topic described potential of computerized clinical trial recruitment.

The major question that I have is regarding using semantic mapping as eligibility criteria substitute. Semantic mapping is not only one method for enrolment to clinical trials using EMR data. The concept of “digital signatures” allows to do highly successful “mapping” of eligibility criteria based on combination objective and subjective clinical data. In current manuscript It is difficult understand what exactly was mapped based on names of the trials. Table 1 is counting numbers only. Also tables 2 and 3 have not all eligibility criteria listed. Method section is lacking details about specific enrollment criteria that probably should be added as appendix.

Based on above title of manuscript not reflects only one method used – semantic mapping. Discussion part and conclusion sections also would have benefits if describe this limitation.

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 that I have no competing interests