Reviewer's report

Title: A Three-Step Approach for the Derivation and Validation of High-Performing Predictive Models Using an Operational Dataset: Congestive Heart Failure Readmission Case Study

Version: 4 Date: 13 April 2014

Reviewer: Steven Babin

Reviewer's report:

I am satisfied that the authors have addressed my comments.

I found one error that they should correct: in the first paragraph under Background, one of the sentences states "...were readmitted within 30 days, with unplanned hospitalizations leading to $17.4 billion in excesses costs to Medicare in 2004." Please change excesses to excess.

Thank you.

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.