Reviewer’s report

Title: Hidden in plain sight: bias towards sick patients when sampling patients with sufficient electronic health record data for research

Version: 3  Date: 22 May 2014

Reviewer: Jose Alberto A Maldonado

Reviewer’s report:

The authors addressed the topics raised properly. Apart from a minor discretionary revision this new version is ready for publication in BMC.

Discretionary revision
I still miss a more detailed explanation of the statistical method, in this new version of the paper a negative binomial regression. There is a brief explanation at the end of method section (including a reference), but I think it can be improved in order to help readers to understand the method and its suitability. We should take into account that negative binomial regression is not a well-known method therefore readers will not be familiar with it.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest