Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of different comorbidity measures for use with administrative data in predicting short- and long-term mortality

Version: 3 Date: 19 March 2010

Reviewer: Uzor C. Ogbu

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have addressed the majority of my initial concerns. The manuscript addresses a significant issue regarding the validity of various comorbidity measures in an Asian population. By using an acute and chronic condition they highlight the versatility of the measures. In addition, by compiling and comparing their performance using the index admission only, and the index admission plus a one year lookback period they present robust findings.

Minor Essential revisions
1. The Methods section is vastly improved but can still be made more succinct and understandable.
2. The first paragraph of the results section appears to compare the AMI population to the COPD population. This does not seem to be a useful comparison given the significant differences in treatment protocols for the two conditions.
3. The authors may wish to incorporate a portion of their response to my initial query about the reasons behind the use of the different comorbidity measures in the existing literature.
4. The authors note a difference in the quality of the database as a limitation but say they had no missing data. Perhaps they could expand on what they mean by stating this as a limitation.
5. The authors should thoroughly proofread the article paying particular attention to the consistency of tenses and wording.
6. The authors should explain/justify the designation of aborigine for the benefit of a wider audience that might not be familiar with the use or implications of the term in Asia.

Discretionary revisions
6. In the first row of Table 2, the authors use the section sign (§) to denote “Not applicable”. It might be clearer if the used N/A and added the explanation as a footnote.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.