Reviewer's report

Title: Improving long-term care provision: towards demand-based care by means of modularity

Version: 2 Date: 18 May 2010

Reviewer: Norm O'Rourke

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This is a topical and generally well-written study of relevance to the field. Yet often the discussion of results seemed oriented towards readers well versed in qualitative methodologies. As a quantitative research, much of the content was not well understood and my comments should be interpreted on that basis.

The authors state that one strength of this study is its qualitative methodology. Is this really true? (I would argue that a mixed methods study would have been substantively stronger.) What quantitative data might the authors have obtained to make this study of interest to a broader readership? As it stands, the audience for this study is limited.

At the outset, there should be some contextual information specific to LTC in the Netherlands. For instance, to what degree do government agencies finance the services examined for this study? For international readers, it would be ideal to provide some background regarding the financing of services, co-payments, user fees, et cetera.

Note, you cannot provide participants with anonymity when they’re sitting across from an interviewer! (Anonymity means participants’ identities are unknown to the researchers.) This needs to be deleted from the text.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.