Reviewer's report

Title: Timing of surgery for hip fracture and in-hospital mortality. A retrospective population-based cohort study in the Spanish National Health System.

Version: 2 Date: 8 November 2011

Reviewer: Reijo Sund

Reviewer's report:

Excellent work with revisions!

I have no further comments except for a few optional revisions:

1) In discussing the implications of the study you state that "early surgery" should not be used as a quality indicator (in Spain), but may work as an efficiency indicator. I see your point, but taking into account that there were huge variation in proportions of "early surgery" between hospitals and surprisingly low average "early surgery" proportion (much lower than "acceptable"), I would say that from an international point of view there seems to be a "need" for quality improvement in Spain (not in terms of mortality but in terms of good practices in identifying patients that can (or cannot) be operated early. Maybe you want to comment on that in the manuscript?

2) Maybe you could still add some additional explanations to tables (or their captions). For example, in Table 1 first percentage column is % of all patients ("vertical"), but the second percentage group is early n per all n ("horizontal"). Another example in Table 4 is that n refers to total number of patients in the corresponding group and NOT the number of died patients in the group. Such "inconsistencies" may confuse and make the reading of tables unnecessarily clumsy.

3) Check the manuscript and especially additional files once more for typos. For example, in additional file 3: "lineal" should (probably) be "linear" and the first sentence in the last text paragraph (starting with "Because hospitals when (nearly) all patients...") is difficult to understand.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.