Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with the utilization and costs of health and social services in frail elderly patients

Version: 1 Date: 9 April 2012

Reviewer: MARIA LUCIA L LEBRAO

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? YES
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? YES
3. Are the data sound?
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? YES
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? YES
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? YES
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? APPARENTLY YES
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? YES
9. Is the writing acceptable? YES

• Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

It would be interesting, thinking in global comparisons, to know the average incomes on Finland for the cost analysis, in order to compare with other countries.

• Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

I have not found any reference in the manuscript on the effect of sampling design on analysis and their weightings. It is interesting to add.

• Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Nothing to add.

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:
My answer is no to all questions.