Reviewer's report

Title: Patient characteristics associated with hospitalisations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions in Victoria, Australia

Version: 2 Date: 24 July 2012

Reviewer: Sarah Purdy

Reviewer's report:

general comments

Thank you for asking me to review this paper which is clearly written and well presented. The question posed is important but not original. There are a number of papers from the same team on similar issues plus a growing number of studies from other countries that are not cited e.g. from the UK Purdy et al 2010 and 2011, Baker et al 2011/12. The paper takes a wide view across all ACSCs which is interesting but means there is less detail about certain conditions and key messages are harder to extract.

It is unclear what new information comes from this paper. More specific conclusions would help with this.

The data appear to be robust and the methods appropriate. However, the data are now very old (2003/4) and findings may well no longer be relevant. Conclusions drawn from the study appear to be valid and result directly from the data shown. Results are well presented. However, the references mainly predate 2005 and need to be updated with more recent work.

This is a cross sectional study and the limitations of this design should be acknowledged.

Major compulsory revisions

1. Update references and discussion to reflect more recent research on definition of ACSCs and factors influencing rates of ACSCs.

2. Acknowledge age of the data - may well not reflect current picture. Can any more recent data be included to indicate trends/context?

3. Highlight what is new in this research - to aid policymakers and also to inform the international readership - currently very focused on Victoria

Minor

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
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