Reviewer's report

Title: Adverse Outcomes among Home Care Clients Associated with Emergency Room Visit or Pre-Hospitalization: A Descriptive Study of Secondary Health Databases

Version: 1 Date: 18 March 2013

Reviewer: Khaled Al_Surimi

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Title: Adverse outcomes among Home care client associated with emergency room visit or pre-hospitalization: a descriptive study of secondary health database

This study addresses an important issue of quality and safety in home healthcare context. Apparently most of previous studies on quality and safety were biased toward hospital care setting. Thus the evidence from this study findings would promote quality and safety issues in homecare setting in addition to be a good addition into the literature. One important things about this study is focusing on incidence rather than the prevalence of adverse events (AEs) in homecare and reporting their consequences. I recommend acceptance of the manuscript, provided addressing the following comments

Minor essential revisions:

1- Abstract, conclusions: it looks like a recommendation not conclusion statement so authors are advised to revisit the conclusion statement and rephrase it based on the study findings, and then they could write a recommendation for action.

2- Results: 1st paragraph (2nd and 3rd lines) requires revision as the overall percentage is more than 100 %, it equals 101%?? . Table 1: row 9 (pressure ulcer stage 2+) the rounded up % should be .12 not 0.11. Table 1: row 13 , ++ require explanation in the footnote

3- Discussion: 1st paragraph, line 2, the authors reported that the overall incidence rate of Adverse outcomes rages between 12 to 13 for 2008, 2009 while the fact is that either to say from 12.7 to 13.3 or just say they are similar 13% so these figure need revision and fixing.

4- The consequence of adverse outcomes in this study found significantly associated with LTC home admission death so it would be helpful to indicate and discuss the level of preventability of these adverse events advising homecare providers and policy makers taking action to prevent adverse outcomes from occurrence in the future.

Discretionary revisions:

1- In the Title: the phrase ‘descriptive study’ could be replaced by
“retrospective-cohort’ to reflect the study design in the title as well.

2- In the Abstract, Methods section, line 6, replace word relationship with association to be consistent in all over the paper.

3- The scope of the literature review in the background and discussion sections need more expansion. For example I advise authors to have a look at the Paul Masotti and others who done previous good work related to the adverse events at homecare setting.

4- Study setting, setting and cohort: Paragraph 1, line 1, I suggest to authors using words ‘estimate’ instead of ‘determine’ with the incidence rate

5- Table 1: I would prefer adding the year 2008 and 2009 as part of the Table Caption

**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:**

None declared