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: 21 March 2013

Reviewer: Mondher Letaief

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Minor Essential Revisions:

1) In the Introduction section, additional information would be of interest to show the rationale of the study, such as the relevance of documenting patient harm due to the care management and what could be made as improvement activities directed by the study findings.

2) In the methodology section, authors are invited to give more information on the adverse events identification process, who made the confirmation, did you manage to have a set of screening criteria, or triggers that facilitated the process?

3) The study variables are the adverse outcomes; was it possible to investigate the preventability rates as well as the area of attention that you may find as a consequence of the event (blunt end causes or route causes)?

4) The logistic regression was not well detailed to see the appropriateness of the analysis as well as the weight of the confounders.

5) In the ethics section, you do not need to provide detailed information about the data access as well as the ethics since you had already the ethical clearance from your ERC.

6) To facilitate the understanding of the adverse outcomes, it is preferable to add some cases that illustrate the nature and the type of adverse outcome (for or five stories that will be of added benefit for the reader to understand the cases and make the more context-based).

7) The discussion section would be more relevant if authors add paragraph about the relevance of the study findings to direct specific policies and improvement programmes on a strategic level. That means what can be done on the strategic level to reinforce health policies that are targeting patient safety improvement.

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:

No