Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of mortality among elderly dependent home care patients

Version: 4 Date: 22 January 2013

Reviewer: Claudio Bilotta

Reviewer's report:

I have appreciated that major compulsory revisions I asked for have been partly addressed.

Major compulsory revisions

1. I look forward to seeing in Table 6 (or in a supplementary Table as well) all the variables originally included in the multivariate analysis, i.e. including those found to be not significantly related to death.

2. I look forward to seeing methods and results (including data in a specific Table or supplementary Table) concerning the multivariate analysis performed on the sub-group of those 821 patients having a care giver – analysis the Authors stated having performed. If the Zarit test did not appear as a significant variable after correction for the other covariates, the relevance of caregiver burden in the Discussion should be changed accordingly.

3. In the Conclusion the statement that ‘A proactive integrated social and health service programme for community dwelling EDPLH patients aiming at preventing pressure ulcers and unnecessary hospital admissions, might be more effective than current demand-driven home care programmes for these patients.’ has to be deleted since it is absolutely not supported by the nature and findings of the study, as previously explained in my first and second review for this manuscript.

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