Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of paediatric nursing-sensitive outcomes in an Australian population using linked administrative hospital data

Version: 1 Date: 18 June 2013

Reviewer: Diane Brown

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1) I am uncomfortable with the framing of this manuscript as nursing sensitive outcomes. I think the work is good, but would be more appropriately be framed as descriptive work for hospitalized pediatric outcomes instead (some of which are nursing-sensitive)

2) Given that most of the outcomes are rare events, and given that this study was conducted in a children's hospital, generalizability is limited. Future research would need to focus on comparison to other children's hospitals to understand variability in outcome rates, and comparison to general hospitals to determine variability with children's hospitals.

3) In the methods, it is unclear why the IRSD and ARIA+ were categorized into dichotomous variables of least and most disadvantaged -- this requires further discussion to understand the limitations of this design and implications in the findings.

4) The discussion needs to be strengthened related to the denominator choice of hospital separations rather than patients and how this impacts the comparison to other research.

5) The discussion needs to be strengthened to understand the implications of using administrative data (+/-).

6) The discussion needs to be strengthened to understand the implications of stratification versus no stratification by developmental age.

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 conflicts