Reviewer's report

Title: Determinants of financial performance of home-visit nursing agencies in Japan.

Version: 2 Date: 6 November 2013

Reviewer: Christa Hojlo

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Major compulsory revisions:

1. The question needs to be clearer. Is the study about profitability and quality of care as it related to patient outcomes (quality) or organizational/management quality?

2. Throughout the document references to quality, quality of care, quality assurance, "quality control of care" were confusing. What is the definition of quality of care in this paper? Need one definition that needs to be very clear and use it throughout the entire paper.

3. The aim of the study was not clear. Unclear "aim is to clarify the variables of quality of care etc"? Not sure what that means.

4. It appears that the study was trying to identify characteristics/differences between profitable and unprofitable agencies and the impact on some measure of quality but it was not clear what that was.

5. Some of the written English needs attention for example in abstract "Due to 'stagnant' number of home visits"...what does this mean; page 9, 3rd paragraph; areas on page 11; page 14 and essentially throughout the document. The English needs revision.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.