Reviewer’s report

Title: Reducing Hospital Admissions from Nursing Homes: a Systematic Review

Version: 2
Date: 28 October 2013

Reviewer: yayoi takezako

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Please summarize the review method in the manuscript with search terms like “nursing homes”, “hospitalization” etc.

2. You wrote, “We classified the type of interventions into three categories” on page 6, but I can’t find the reason for the categorization. Please explain it. I think you can categorize in another way, e.g., “prevention,” “reducing acute admission,” “improving usual care,” and “reducing end-of-life admission”.

3. Please try to integrate Table S4-12 and Table 1-3. Your final results are not in Table 1-3, but are in Table S4-12? I can’t access the original paper for S4-12 due to lack of the reference number.

4. I recommend that you re-consider the meaning of your results. Although the GRADE of evidence is low, the results show some important aspects of nursing home care.

In my country, Government policies promoting end-of-life care (additional funding for end-of-life care) have increased the percentage of residents dying in nursing homes. This means the Government policies reduced the end-of-life admission of nursing home residents to hospitals. “Physician”, “advance care planning”, and “financial incentives” might be the key issues.

Minner
1. Table 1 Please write “the setting and nationality”

Caplan 2006 #two hospitals and the 21 nursing homes

Molloy 2000#1292 residents in 6 Ontario nursing homes in Canada
#? according to Molloy DW, Guyatt GH, Russo R, et al. Systematic implementation of an advance directive program in nursing homes: a randomized controlled trial. JAMA. 2000 Mar 15;283(11):1437-44.#

Morrison 2005#One hundred thirty-nine newly admitted long-term care residents of a nursing homes in U.S.A.
(according to Morrison RS, Chichin E, Carter J The effect of a social work intervention to enhance advance care planning documentation in the nursing home. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2005;53:290-4.)

2. Table S2

Please write the “Cause for exclusion of study” as the following


**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests