Reviewer’s report

Title: Where Should Momma Go? Evaluating Current Nursing Home Performance Measurement Strategies and Offering a More Conservative Alternative

Version: 1 Date: 14 March 2007
Reviewer: Thomas T.H. Wan

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very interesting paper that deals with conceptual and methodological issues pertaining to the measurement of the quality of nursing home care. The five principles for developing a useful scale of the nursing home care quality are pertinent to the identification of nursing home performance. The paper is well written. Selected and relevant references are cited. Additional references should be included in the study of quality of nursing home care (e.g., Journal of Medical Systems, Western Journal of Nursing Research, etc.) The paper will make contributions to the scientific literature on nursing home quality and its measurement. Two amendments are suggested: 1. The paper does not consider the customer's (resident's) perspective in the evaluation of the quality of care. MDS data do not reflect well about the perceptions of health care provided by nursing homes. If the customer's view is to be considered, the authors should offer some directions in the development of the measurement scale or instrument. 2. Figure 1 presents very confusing ideas on the indicators of nursing home quality. The left-sided graph shows that the quality of care, a latent variable, is shared in common by the related indicators of quality. However, the right-sided graph represents that the quality of care is predicted by the predictor variables. It would be better to reformulate the graph that contains the measurement model as well as the predictive model as a structural equation model. Authors are advised to consult with an expert in SEM to redesign the causal model.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.