Reviewer’s report

Title: Co- and multimorbidity patterns in primary care based on episodes of care: results from the German CONTENT project

Version: 4 Date: 26 November 2007

Reviewer: Helena Britt

Reviewer’s report:

General
This paper is much improved, but still needs a couple of minor corrections.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Page 5: first full para: sentence 2
- an episode of care (in this study) actually includes all GP encounter elements – none from specialists.

Page 7: first full para” last line.
I think you mean ‘as well as a few chronic symptoms and complaints (rather than reasons for encounter). I think you are referring to the few chronics in component 1. If you wish to discuss this further, broader conversation with members of the WICC may clarify the difference.

Page 8: last para, lines 5-6
I think this should read “..that the prevalence estimates are based on the entry of the selected problem within the YCG in the observation period....’

Discussion:
Page 10 para 3: You need to quote the ICPC rubrics as they really are, which is:
L89 Osteoarthrosis of hip
L90 Osteoarthrosis of knee etc.
You may prefer the term 'osteoarthritis', but these are ICPC 2 rubrics (international standard) – you can’t change them to your liking.
Also, the real issue is that L91 includes ‘arthritis unspecified’ and ‘traumatic arthropathy’. A comment needs to be added to this effect, because your
suggested solution applies equally to L91 as it does to L84.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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