Reviewer’s report

Title: Patient Complexity in Quality Comparisons for Glycemic Control: an Observational Study

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2007

Reviewer: Jeff McGinn

Reviewer’s report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The use of the last available a1c value in your predictive model raises questions. Do VA medical centers test for a1c on a regular, frequent basis for their patients with diabetes (e.g. quarterly or bi-annually)? If so, would an average a1c score provide different insights?

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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)

Figure 3 didn’t print correctly on the manuscript. The right edge, including part of the label was cut off at the margin.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

An possible, approximate way to incorporate socio-economic influences into your model could be achieved by determining the zip code for each patient (from their existing inpatient/outpatient records), and then append the average annual income determined in that zip using U.S. Census data.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.