Reviewer's report

Title: The Impact of Standardizing the Definition of Visits on the Consistency of Multi-Database Observational Health Research

Version: 3 Date: 31 December 2014

Reviewer: Mark G Weiner

Reviewer's report:

In the resubmission, the authors have provided clarity where it was needed. In particular, Figure 1 shows a source table that, by its name should be reflective of ambulatory activity, but contains records that clearly point to inpatient activity. The fact that their algorithm that looks for objective markers of inpatient activity to reclassify the status of encounters results in closer alignment of diagnosis rates across disparate vendor data does give the approach good face validity.

One small point -- on line 161, there is a phrase "and Optum derived field," which I believe should read "an Optum derived field."

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'