Reviewer's report

Title: Proxy Response Bias in Assessing Health and Functional Status among Medicare Beneficiaries

Version: 4 Date: 1 April 2015

Reviewer: Lesley Weaver

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision: The authors do not adequately justify their use of the Greedy 5 to 1 digit method. However, they cite that other matching techniques could have been used as a limitation. The manuscript should address the use of the Greedy 5 to 1 method either through providing an a priori justification that it is the single best method to use in this particular instance (proxy response comparison in Medicare beneficiaries) or providing evidence that they have tried different matching methods and the Greedy 5 to 1 method is the best. If, in a revision, they demonstrate that the Greedy 5 to 1 method is the best, then they need to include the number of cases that match at 5 digits, 4 digits, 3 digits, 2 digits and 1 digit.

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.