Reviewer's report

Title: Agreement between Administrative Data and the RAI-MDS for Medication Use in Long-term Care Facilities

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Reviewer: Cristiano Moura

Reviewer's report:

The main purpose of this paper is to estimate agreement between drug information in two population-based sources, RAI-MDS and prescription drug administrative data. The research question posed by authors was well defined, the methods seem appropriate and the authors acknowledged the limitations on the discussion section. I only have a couple of remarks, as described below.

Minor Essential Revisions

1 - When referring to drug classes like “anti-psychotic” and “anti-depressant” the authors should use the term “medication classes” instead of just “medication”. As for example in line 84-85, page 5 “This agreement analysis was conducted for three medications frequently prescribed to LTCF residents...”

Discretionary Revisions

1 - The RAI-MDS measures drugs actually used by patients, whereas administrative database records drugs that are dispensed. However, administrative data might not reflect actual medication use due to non-adherence or lack of persistency. For example, differences between the two sources can arise because the symptoms are reduced or because of adverse effects. These points should also be included in the discussion section.

2 - It would be interesting to see if the agreement varies according to the time of RAI-MDS assessment (at the admission, quarterly, or annual RAI-MDS assessment).

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