Reviewer's report

Title: Derivation of a Frailty Index from the interRAI Acute Care Instrument

Version: 2
Date: 4 January 2015

Reviewer: Desmond O'Neill

Reviewer's report:

This is a very helpful paper, and a useful addition to the frailty literature.

Major compulsory revisions:

1) The author's should position the introduction and discussion more clearly in terms of discussion between the phenotypical and cumulative deficit approaches, clarifying that the interRAI approach is based on the latter - reference to Morley et al paper J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2013 Jun;14(6):392-7 would be helpful.

2) the authors clarify the process for deciding on the coding - was this a Delphi process, focus groups....

Minor Essential Revisions:

The conflict of interest statement should clarify any commercialization, as per the statement in the recent Lancet review on frailty "KR has applied to various Canadian government schemes to commercialise a new version of the Frailty Index based on a comprehensive geriatric assessment and a new screening method, adapted from the Clinical Frailty Scale of the Canadian Study of Health and Aging. To do this, with colleagues he has formed a company called Videx Canada. He has not asserted copyright on any frailty measure discussed here. The other authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest."

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests