Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of attendance to group exercise: a cohort study of older adults in long-term care facilities

Version: 1 Date: 27 January 2015

Reviewer: Catherine Sherrington

Reviewer's report:

This is an important and impressive study.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The methods section does not make clear that all analyses were conducted separately by type of accommodation.
2. The distinction between the terms “residential homes” and “nursing homes” would not be easily understood internationally so it would be helpful if this can be described in abstract
3. Although the overall sample size is large, the completers in the nursing homes are a relatively small sample so more attention should be given to lower statistical power in the nursing home setting as an explanation of the differential findings in the two settings. Was it really that the patterns were different or that one sample was smaller than the other?
4. Did the authors consider an analysis with all data together to determine whether type of accommodation was a significant predictor of adherence? If not there may be an argument for a single analysis of all data from both settings.
5. The relatively low explanatory power of the multivariable model (r squared 8.7%) should be discussed.

Minor Essential Revisions
6. There is an inappropriate use of the apostrophe several times in the introduction eg “ADL’s”
7. The format of Table 1 needs some attention.

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