Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of physical restraints in nursing homes: a multicenter cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 20 May 2015

Reviewer: Ingelin Testad

Reviewer’s report:

Please number your comments and divide them into

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors needs to argument further why this brings something new to the knowledge we already have on this topic.

This is a well written report of a study performed in Switzerland and the use of restraint in two cantons. However, the question is, if this bring new knowledge to the already stated facts in numerous studies, that restraints are widely used and should be reduced.

The aim of this study is to (line 107-110) determine how often all types of physical restraints are applied among nursing home residents in two Swiss cantons. This has already been performed in other countries like Norway and Germany. Kindly state in more details what this study adds to the already established knowledge.

Furthermore, stated in the aim is that these cantons have different cultural traditions, is that a specific scope of this study? If so, this would increase the value of this study together with centre variations and should be sufficiently emphasized in background and through out the paper.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1) Data collection.

Line 136: Kindly explain why this was limited to 3 months.

2) GCP

In line 136-137 you say you have respected the guidelines of Good Clinical Practise, kindly specify what this involves.

3) Definition of physical restraint.

In line 139-143 you have provided a definition to use of restraint. This should be moved high up in background.

3) Data concerning nursing home characteristics.

Where these obtained from all participating institutions?

4) Recruitment
What were the reasons for the 12 institutions to decline participation?

5) Conclusions
This needs to be shortened and more to the point.

- Discretionary Revisions
These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

Please note that both the comments entered here and answers to the questions below constitute the report, bearing your name, that will be forwarded to the authors and published on the site if the article is accepted.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I have no competing interest