Author’s response to reviews

Title: Using an accumulation of deficits approach to measure frailty in a population of home care users with intellectual and developmental disabilities: an analytical descriptive study

Authors:
Katherine McKenzie (k.mckenzie@queensu.ca)
Hélène Ouëlette-Kuntz (helene.kuntz@queensu.ca)
Lynn Martin (lynn.martin@lakeheadu.ca)

Version: 1 Date: 22 Nov 2015

Author’s response to reviews:
The following changes have been highlighted on the revision:

Acknowledgment section expanded to include funder and data holder requirements.
Data availability section added.
Information on Methods added to Abstract.
One sentence modified under data linkage to reflect data holder requirement.
Sample information moved from Methods to Results.

Specific Authors Response to Reviews:

Reviewer #1: This is a very interested paper about validity of a measurement of frailty in adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This topic is no common in Journals. The study design to enhance the quality of the results presented. Discussion is
ABSTRACT:
* The main objective of the study is presented.
* Statistical method used should be provided.

RESPONSE: The statistical method is included in the manuscript (“A multinomial logistic regression model identified associations between frailty and individual characteristics”) (highlighted, page 2).
* The conclusion highlights the contribution of this work.

METHODS:
Study design and study population are clearly described.

RESULTS:
Four tables and two figures are well presented. Results are presented clearly.

DISCUSSION:
Study limitations and implications were identified.
Conclusions emphasizing the need to use a Frailty Index in this population very vulnerable.

References:
There were 71 and all are appropriate and support the manuscript.
Thanks for letting me review this manuscript.

Reviewer #2:
Frailty is the state of nonspecific vulnerability to stressors resulting from the decreased physiological reserves and the deregulation of multiple physiological systems associated with old age. Frailty is often measured using the definition of the frailty syndrome and/or the health
accumulation of deficits index approach. And the extant literatures show that Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities may be at an increased risk of frailty.

This article measured the frailty status using a health accumulation of deficits approach and identified the associations between frailty status and individual characteristics in a population with intellectual and developmental disabilities using an analytical descriptive study. The main methods of this study were well described.

The results and conclusions may be significant for the identification and measurement of frailty status and health deficits among persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And the use of statistical analysis in this study sounds to be suitable.

The manuscript has a clear structure and well written and there is only one point need to be modified in this manuscript: the demographic characteristics of the subjects in the "Methods" parts should be shown in the "results" part. (Minor Essential Revisions)

RESPONSE: The demographic characteristics have been moved from the methods to the results section (highlighted, page 12).

In addition, the manuscript may need a little language corrections before being published.