Reviewer’s report

Title: Cost-effectiveness analysis of a multifactorial fall prevention intervention in older home care clients at risk for falling

Version: 0 Date: 01 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Steven Albert

Reviewer's report:

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This is a careful account of the cost-effectiveness of a falls prevention intervention based on a secondary analysis of a randomized clinical trial. The trial did not show benefit in reduction of falls between the two arms. This is the key finding. A secondary finding is that breaking out the sample by age may make the intervention cost effective for each age group with appropriate willingness to pay values.

I am not surprised at the absence of an effect because the usual care group had extensive multidisciplinary management as well, even it was not specifically directed at falls prevention. This, to me, is an important finding.

I think the value of this paper would be increased if the authors could also:

1. Compare their combined sample to other cohorts of older people receiving services to see how typical this falls experience is. Is a mean of 1.8 falls over 6 months typical of the risk population?

2. Correct or explain why mean falls values are negative in Table 1.

3. Provide more detail on regression approach

4. State more clearly in the Discussion that differences in benefit and cost effectiveness between the study arms were in fact minor, even when age groups are broken out.

5. Discuss policy implications of the different WTP thresholds in the age groups required for cost effectiveness.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
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