Reviewer’s report

Title: Informal Care Relationships and Residential Aged Care Recommendations: Evidence from Administrative Data

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Rowan Jasper

Reviewer's report:

I found this an engaging and timely research paper. It contains interesting content, uses appropriate methods, and the findings contribute to the debate and knowledge base on the relationship between informal care relationships and recommendations for home or residential care in Australia. There are, however, a few comments which would need to be addressed before the article would be acceptable for publication.

My main concern is the structuring of the discussion and concluding sections. These are inadequate in their current format. After referring to the author guidelines I suggest that much of the concluding section should be moved into the discussion. A concluding paragraph could be the one starting "Noting these limitations...". Once this is revised and an initial sentence added briefly summarising the results this would make a stronger conclusion.

Overall: Do double check for typos or misused words throughout the article. For example, in the Research Design, Study population paragraph sentence starting 'Following, we removed records were the assessment... should this be a where?'

Abstract and Introduction: The abstract was clear and concise and the introduction was detailed and contained relevant literature. I found it a great scene setting for readers not familiar with this research area and from an international audience. I particularly liked the sub-section headed Background to the Australian System.

Methodology: This section was of a good quality and detailed all the areas of the analysis.

1. Briefly introduce and describe the 'Wald' test in the Statistical Analysis section text. In the Table 3 footnote this was identified as 'Test gender - wald test of male coefficient versus female coefficient yet I had to look for this

Results: This section was clearly detailed and interesting. Lots of data were presented but all were described in a logical and interesting way.

1. For clarity, please define co-residence as 'cores'
2. Replicate Table 3 footnotes for Table 1 and 2, particularly the*** and ICD definition

3. Add socio-demographic to the sentence starting 'Among the control variables...'

4. The sentence starting 'For both males and females, presence of a... made little sense. Please revise this

Discussion: The discussion section needs expanding - see my comments above. For the current version first paragraph starting 'Previous international and Australian studies...' please add references to the first three sentences.

Author contributions: Please specify the individual contribution of each author to the manuscript.

Thank you for such an interesting article. I hope these comments are helpful and constructive.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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