Reviewer’s report

Title: Low patient activation levels in frail older adults: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1  Date: 14 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Suman Kundu

Reviewer's report:

I thank you the authors for providing a detail response for some of the previous queries. Though, couple of the queries were not addressed appropriately which I would recommend to consider.

- Categorization of a continuous variable is generally not a good option. There are numerous publications advocating against using categorization. If you have an indication that a continuous variable (for example, PSQ score) is non-linearly associated with an outcome, then using a spline function (such as restricted cubic spline) seems more appropriate rather than categorization which implicitly assumed homogeneity in each categories—an assumption which is often not true. Using a spline function you have a set of estimation instead of a single point estimation, which can be easily explain by drawing a spline plot. Likewise, you can consider the PAM-13 in its original scale as a continuous variable.

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 am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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