Author’s response to reviews

Title: Overweight or obese BMI is associated with earlier, but not later survival after common acute illnesses

Authors:

Hallie Prescott (hprescot@med.umich.edu)

Virginia Chang (vc43@nyu.edu)

Version: 4 Date: 18 Jan 2018

Author’s response to reviews:

January 18, 2018

Aimee Cummings
BMC Geriatrics

Dear Dr. Cummings:

Please accept our revised manuscript “Obesity is associated with earlier, but not later survival after common acute illnesses” (BGTC-D-17-00326R3) by Hallie Prescott and Virginia Chang for reconsideration for publication as an original research article in BMC Geriatrics.

We have updated to “Ethical Approval and consent to participate” section of the manuscript to provide more detail about the method of consent for enrollment into the Health and Retirement Study, as well as consent for linkage to Medicare records. This section now reads:

Ethical Approval and consent to participate: University of Michigan IRB approved this study. Written or verbal informed consent was obtained on enrollment into Health and Retirement Study (HRS). (For each wave of HRS survey, half of the surveys are done in person and half are done over the telephone. Thus, because many participants’ first surveys are completed by telephone and not in person, these participants complete verbal consent for enrollment in the study, and this mode of consent was approved by the IRB). Because participants are enrolled from the community at the ages for 51-54 years, there is a very low rate of cognitive impairment at the time of enrollment into the study. However, if it is determined that a participant has cognitive impairment, then informed consent is obtained from a proxy. In addition to providing consent for enrollment into HRS, participants also provided informed consent (always written) for linkage to Medicare records.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this manuscript, and look forward to hearing back from you.
Sincerely,

Hallie C. Prescott, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
University of Michigan Hospitals