Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk factors for hip fracture in New Zealand older adults seeking home care services: A national population cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Nicholas Taylor

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This large national cross-sectional study of older people accessing home health care services used a standardized assessment of 236 health questions and linked these data to determine hip fracture risk. The findings confirmed risk factors identified in other international studies for this vulnerable group. The study identified that about 1 in 14 of the cohort sustained a hip fracture during the study period - a median of 13.9 months after seeking home health care services. The strength of the study is the size of the sample (n=45,046) and the linkage to other data, for example through the use of a unique National Health Index number for anyone seeking health services in New Zealand. The analytical techniques appear rigorous. The study could be improved by putting more emphasis on what this study adds to the literature in the Discussion, and by providing more details about the administration and measurement properties of the instrument, the interRAI-HC, in the Methods.

Some specific comments:

Title: The authors could consider replacing 'with complex needs' with 'seeking home health care services'.

Background, page 1, line 37: It would be helpful to include a couple examples of typical home health care services that are being sought.

Methods, page 4, about line 40: Could some more detail be provided about the instrument and its administration? E.g confirming that sources of information for the assessor included observation, self-report, and communication with informal caregivers. E.g. How much training did assessors receive E.g. measurement properties (acknowledging ref 25 addresses this).

Results, page 8, line 23: Appears to be missing text: 'shortness of breath, and, were…'

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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