Reviewer's report

Title: Depressive Symptoms in Long Term Care Facilities in Western Canada: A Cross Sectional Study

Version: 1 Date: 17 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Hao Luo

Reviewer's report:

In general, the authors did a satisfactory job in addressing the reviewers' comments. I think the manuscript is significantly improved. However, there are still a few minor issues that need to be addressed.

1. Line 69-70. Please consider re-write the sentence "given that in Canada…depression is an important morbidity". The logic is not so clear.
2. Line 71. The discussion about whether tools are available seems irrelevant.
3. Line 74. What does "this review" refer to?
4. It is not appropriate to suggest that "no studies within the Canadian context" examined the prevalence of depression as the reference being cited focused only on "anxiety and depressive disorders after traumatic brain injury". Please do a more careful search on Canadian studies related to depression in LTC.
5. Line 85. "affects" instead of "effects"
6. Report published by CIHI is a very important point of reference in the Canadian context. It would be helpful to provide some background of CIHI's data collection and reporting mechanism. The strengths and limitations, etc.

7. Covariates included in this study are listed in Table 1. Although detailed justification are provided, it is still important to discuss the overall conceptual framework. What are the overarching domains being considered (e.g., frailty, comorbidity, etc)? I think a short paragraph need to be dedicated to introduce why these covariates are chosen from many items. For example, in the discussion (Line 255), the authors mentioned that 'unstable medical conditions' are relevant. But relevant items are not examined in this current study.

8. Line 146, "out goal…” should be moved to the introduction part.

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
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I am able to assess the statistics

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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