Reviewer's report

Title: Development and Validation of an Algorithm to Assess Risk of First-Time Falling Among Home Care Clients

Version: 0 Date: 12 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Marilyn Rantz

Reviewer's report:

this is an important contribution of new approaches to measure the risk for falls for people living at home. Authors should be commended for approaching this problem using relatively novel analytic approach and using an available large data set of actual assessment information of people receiving home care in Canada.

There are a few suggestions to improve the manuscript for readers:

Please explain that MDS-HC has known validity and reliability, and cite references for that,

On page 7, the fall rates are summarized as 5% and 9% for group 1 (low risk) and 34% for group 6 (high risk), it would be helpful to add the summary information across the Provinces so the reader could follow your numbers in this paragraph to summary Figure 2

Page 9 in the discussion adds more interpretive results with population data, some of which would be better placed in results and then expounded upon in discussion about the implications for health care of the population at home, more implications for clinicians and policy makers would be helpful, too, to add to discussion

thanks for the opportunity to review and comment on this manuscript

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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