Reviewer's report

Title: Measurement Properties of Comorbidity Indices in Maternal Health Research: A Systematic Review

Version: 0 Date: 02 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Andreea A. Creanga

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript seeks to systematically identify and review comorbidity indices used in maternal health research. While this considerable effort did indeed identify 24 articles presenting ICU-specific comorbidity models, the authors chose to only include the Bateman et al article in their review. I find their review of the Bateman article correct and meeting BMC journal publication standards, but it is the review of only one article.

The one substantive change that I'd make to the manuscript refers to the statement on lines 11-12 on page 19 -- the comorbidity index proposed by Bateman et al has actually been validated by a group in Canada -- reference is Metcalfe A, Lix LM, Johnson JA, et al. Validation of an obstetric comorbidity index in an external population. BJOG: an international journal of obstetrics and gynaecology. 2015;122(13):1748-1755. Their conclusion was "The obstetric comorbidity index shows similar performance characteristics in an external population and is a valid measure of comorbidity in an obstetric population. Furthermore, the discriminative performance of the comorbidity index was similar for comorbidities ascertained at the time of delivery, in hospitalisation data or through all healthcare contacts."

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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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?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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