Reviewer’s report

Title: Increasing Trend in Hospital Deaths Consistent among Older Decedents in Korea: A Population-based Study using a Death Registration Database, 2001-2014

Version: 0 Date: 19 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Camilla Zimmermann

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written, interesting paper on trends in place of death in the Republic of Korea. It is clearly presented and I have few suggestions for its improvement. Below are my comments:

1. Although it is inherently obvious that this publication is about the Republic of Korea (rather than North Korea), for clarity this should be specified the first time the country is mentioned in the abstract and in the paper.

2. It is stated on the first page of the introduction that the vast majority of decedents hope to eventually die in their usual place of residence. Although it is the majority in most countries, I'm not sure that it's the vast majority. There should be a reference provided for this statement. This preference would also likely depend on the resources that are available for patients at home versus in the hospital and therefore vary by country and circumstance.

3. It is stated in the methods that both a univariate and multivariate logistic regression was performed. Do the results on Table 3 and in the results section reflect the multivariate regression results? If so, then this should be stated. If not, then these should be presented.

4. I presume that palliative care units are included in the hospital deaths? Has there been an increase in palliative care units for the time period mentioned? It would be useful to mention in the discussion what fraction of hospital beds is made up of palliative care unit beds - I assume a very small fraction.

5. The discussion is very long and could be shortened and focused a bit more. The most striking finding in this paper is the change in location of death over time. The discussion on predictors could be shortened.

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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