Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of population ageing on end-of-life care in Scotland: Projections of place of death and recommendations for future service provision

Version: 0 Date: 21 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Yvonne Engels

Reviewer's report:

This is a very essential, well-written paper about possible death scenario's, based on trends in the past. By making such a proactive analysis, anticipating on such scenario's is possible.
I have some remarks and questions:

1. what was the reason not to choose for a scenario where the capacity of hospital death is frozen, in favour of death at home, in care homes or hospice? This scenario would help to show, if combined in a next economic paper, that such a scenario might be more feasible in terms of growing health care costs: dying outside the hospital is not only an indicator for quality, but is also cheaper.
2. page 5: why is chosen for these age categories? (as they are not distributed equally)
3. On page 9, it is stated that the number of care homes decreased in the past years; did also the number of beds decrease? And might it be an additional scenario that this trend continues?
4. Also on page 9, the percentage of care home deaths in the Netherlands is mentioned. What is essential to add, is that a care or nursing home in the Netherlands is very unique, when compared to those in other countries, as we have 'elderly care physicians' in these settings. They are specialised in care for elderly, and contribute to high quality care. What is even more interesting, is the low and further decreasing percentage of hospital deaths in the Netherlands (around 32% of deaths).
5. In the recommendations, I would add a suggestion to add an estimation of costs of the scenario's, as this is also important to use the current paper for the planning of future health care.

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?
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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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