Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of Data Quality of interRAI Assessments in Home and Community Care

Version: 0 Date: 11 May 2017

Reviewer: Hui Hu

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written manuscript describing the evaluations of data quality of the interRAI in home and community care. Yearly trends were generated for convergent validity, reliability, and indicators of auto-population. However, one concern is the proportion of the data excluded from the analyses and the lack of descriptions of how data were excluded. Alternatively, the authors can retain most of the data by generating monthly trends instead. In addition, there are many abbreviations in this manuscript, making it hard to read. I suggest the authors to add some figures/tables to summarize these instruments, systems, and variables. Below are my detailed comments:

1. Background: many abbreviations were used. It would be better if the authors can provide a chart to illustrate the relationship of the different system and instruments (i.e. CCRS, RAI 2.0, RAI-HC, interRAI Home Care, HCRS, CCAC, OACCAC etc.) in addition to the descriptions.

2. Methods-Data sources: you mentioned for the CHA data that the assessment closest to July 1st per individual per year was included in the analyses. How about the RAI-HC data? Did you use the same criteria to select the assessment for analyses? Why not randomly pick one assessment per individual per year?

3. Methods-Data sources: please move the descriptions of sensitivity analyses to the Analysis section and put the results of the sensitivity analyses to the Results section.

4. Methods-Variables: again, a table summarizing the variables and specifying the type, range, and cutoffs of the variables will be helpful.

5. Analysis: Given the large sample size you have, it might be more informative to conduct the analyses using monthly time series trends to explore if there is any seasonal pattern in validity and reliability. And you will be able to retain most of the data since you can keep one assessment per individual per month (currently over 42% and 15% data were excluded from the analyses for the RAI-HC data from Ontario and BC, respectively).
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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