Reviewer's report

Title: Leveraging healthcare utilization to explore outcomes from musculoskeletal disorders: methodology for defining relevant variables from a health services data repository

Version: 0 Date: 28 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Genevieve Melton

Reviewer's report:

MIDM-D-17-00156 "Leveraging healthcare utilization to explore outcomes after arthroscopic hip surgery: methodology for defining relevant variables from a health services database" This paper, its approach and results are of interest to the BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making Audience. The work associated with the described outcomes database is worthy to report. There are two items that detract significantly and currently make publishing the manuscript a concern. First, the authors should follow standard scientific headers to the manuscript. Second, the manuscript has many many grammatical errors and if poorly written overall. This needs multiple rounds of editing and review by a technical writer before being potentially acceptable for publication.

Please shorten structured abstract language.

In the introduction, please remove the paragraph about "Big Data". This database does not technically qualify as big data or require techniques to manage as would be required for big data.

Discussion should elaborate further on the limitations of the MDR database including estimates of the time/effort around maintaining MDR.

The title "Restructuring Data to a Usable Format" might be better characterized as "Data Management and Normalization". Restructuring implies something else in the information management landscape.

The results about Utility should be placed into the utility section. Around use, etc.. And separated from discussion.

The discussion overall is limited in scope and should be expanded upon.
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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

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