Reviewer's report

Title: The perseverance time of informal carers of people with dementia: results of a two year longitudinal cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 1 March 2015

Reviewer: Henriëtte van der Roest

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Major compulsory revisions

I am not sure about the validity of the Pt measure, the authors state that it is a reliable measure to assess perseverance time of caregivers. However, I would like to see results of psychometric results of this measure reported in the manuscript.

The authors conclude that measuring Pt has clear predictive accuracy for nursing home admission, I do not agree with this, since in the analysis also deceased patients were taken into account. Without this group the 'correct' percentage is only 53% for perseverance time of less than 1 year. and deceasing for perseverance time of less than 2 years.

The anticipated Pt seems highly related to burden, while burden is not related to realized Pt. However nursing home admission is in majority caused by overburden of caregivers, also other causes may play a role, like illness or injury of the person with dementia. This is not taken into account in the paper. When data on cause of admission are available, it would be worthwhile to include these in the paper. Also other analysis are needed, like loglinear regression analysis with adjustment for burden and other factors like duration of caring. The duration of care might also play a strong role in perseverance time of caregivers. When the diagnoses has just been made, caregivers often do not know yet how burdensome the care can be. The authors are not addressing the this important time effect here.

The authors should be more clear on what group is used in the analysis. Sometimes it is the total sample, in some the sample minus the carers of persons that died within one year, and isometimes the sample minus the carers of persons that died within two years. In my opinion, the analyses should be performed without the carers of persons that have died, respectively on t1 and t2. Otherwise the outcomes should be interpreted as 'nursing home admission and decease'.

In table 2 also the characteristics of the sample for year 2 should be reported, including test statistics.

The results shown in table 4 are difficult to interpret and other statistical tests are needed to report on these results.
Also the term realized Pt should be changed to 'At home' for reasons given above.

Where means are reported in the test statistics, also report sd-values.

The authors have recruited a specific sample, this was addressed in the discussion section, but the authors fail to mention that this sample is also specific, for all of the persons included receive formal care.

The manuscript is lengthy, and could be shortened at places.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests