Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of population ageing on the costs of hospitalisations for cardiovascular disease: A population-based data linkage study

Version: 3 Date: 16 October 2014

Reviewer: Nicholas Mitsakakis

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have accommodate most of the comments, which I think significantly improved the manuscript. Some additional comments are below:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The calculations around the decomposition method are described in the Appendix. It is assumed that these methods were used for the estimation of the quantities of interest. Although most of the variables used in the formulas of the Appendix are presumably acquired by the data, it is not clear how "WA population a1,j" and "number of episodes per capita a3j" are provided as data or calculated from other data sources. Please make this information clear in the manuscript.

Minor Essential Revisions

The notations "WA population a1,j" and "number of episodes per capita a3j" in the appendix are cumbersome and not intuitive. Alternative notations are recommended. Perhaps "a1" and "a3" can be used as superscripts?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.