Reviewer's report

**Title:** Drivers of hospitalization cost after craniotomy for tumor resection: creation and validation of a predictive model

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 23 November 2014

**Reviewer:** Nick Kontodimopoulos

**Reviewer's report:**

This study aims to develop and validate a predictive model of hospitalization cost after craniotomy for tumor resection (CTR). The topic is useful for those with similar research interests and falls within the scope of the journal. The study obviously has its strengths (e.g. the sample size and the statistical methods applied).

The manuscript is well-written and clearly laid out. In the Introduction, the authors succinctly state the problem being investigated and the aims of the study. In the Methods section, the techniques used to analyze the data are well-described. In the Results section, the appropriate analyses have been conducted and the results are well presented. Finally, in the Discussion section all the claims seem reasonable.

Overall I am in favor of this study being published in BMC Health Services Research. My only hesitation to make a final positive recommendation is due to the fact that tables 1-3, which are mentioned in the Results section, do not appear either in the manuscript, or in the Supplementary material document. Since the results section is rather brief, I think these tables must be reviewed in order to obtain a clearer picture on the reported results.

Otherwise, this is a fine manuscript and my only other minor comment is that the authors might consider reducing the supplementary material, e.g. Figure 1 (information is included in the results section) or Table S1 (coding definitions).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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