Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of a transitional home care program in reducing acute hospital utilization: A retrospective study

Version: 2 Date: 28 November 2014

Reviewer: Chryssoula Lemonidou

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Comments to the Authors

This paper reports on some interesting results of a study regarding the 'Effectiveness of a transitional home care program in reducing acute hospital utilization. After a careful reading of the manuscript I have the following comments

Minor Essential Revisions:

Title: 'Effectiveness of a transitional home care program in reducing acute hospital utilization: A retrospective study. The word retrospective is not in use anymore for the study design. You may change to: A quasi-experimental study

Abstract: a) It must be structured according to the Journal’s instructions: Background, the context and purpose of the study; Methods, you may start saying We performed a quasi-experimental study ...(instead of a retrospective observational study.); Results, it is preferable to present the results using the same order as in the main text (for example the hospital admissions followed by emergency department attendances, and hospital length of stay, which is missing in the abstract); Conclusions instead of Interpretations

Methods-Study Design: First line: May be changed to We performed a quasi-experimental study ...(instead of a retrospective observational study..). Forth line: Each patient served as his/her own control (instead of …historical control).

Results: second paragraph, last line: The figure does not add anything more of what is presented in the Table 1, you may remove it.

Third paragraph, 4th line: change to visits or attendances instead of admissions (they are referring to visits or attendances to the emergency department).

Fourth paragraph, which presents the socio-demographics, clinical profile, and outcomes etc. is better to be moved to as second paragraph, before the main results of the study.

In addition, words must be used to express numbers after a period, (i.e. first paragraph, first line, second sentence, and fifth paragraph, fourth line in results section)
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I do not have any competing interest in relation to this paper