Reviewer's report

Title: Coordinated care affects hospitalization and prognosis in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a chronic neurological disease: a cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 14 January 2015

Reviewer: Francesco Tramonti

Reviewer's report:

1) Minor essential revisions

This is a very important work which might have a relevant impact on ALS literature and management. I believe, however, that some additional comments could be helpful for a deeper understanding of the work and for strengthening the take home message.

In more detail, the role of coordinators is described in the additional file, but few comments about the factors possibly related to the outcomes have been provided in the discussion section, apart from the better scheduling of care. The psychosocial needs of patients and caregivers are cited more than once, but they came out of focus in the discussion section. Maybe some additional comments, or at least hypotheses, about their possible role in the study could be of help. In this respect, further information about the role of psychologist and social workers might be useful.

2) Discretionary revisions

Papers describing strategies of ALS management already exist, some of them resulting from the work of european and american task forces (Andersen et al., 2012 - EFNS guidelines on the clinical management of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (MALS)--revised report of an EFNS task force; Miller et al., 2009 - Practice parameter update: the care of the patient with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis...). Do the authors think that the model presented in their paper should also be discussed in light of these existing guidelines? If not, why?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

The is no conflict of interest