Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 6 February 2015

Reviewer: Louisa Ng

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper.

It addresses an interesting area of healthcare and one that could be improved. It is a well written paper that adds weight to the role of care coordinators. A good description is given of this role in additional file 1, although it would be interesting to note what the backgrounds of remaining 2 coordinators were (the ones who were not a physiotherapist or a psychologist). The intensity of follow up is remarkable and often a missing link in the coordination of different systems (hospital, community, multidisciplinary clinics, the home). What would have been really interesting is whether these care coordinators were cost effective, although this may not be within the scope of this study.

The question posed by the authors is well defined.

The methods are appropriate and well described.

The data appears sound.

The figures appear to be genuine.

The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.

The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Limitations of the work are clearly stated.

The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.

However, the title could be shortened – it is probably not necessary to state that ALS is a chronic neurological disease.

The writing is acceptable.

I have no suggestions for Major compulsory revisions.

Minor revisions – Table 1 is busy and would benefit from further clarity of the data (such as explaining what “annual number of stays” represents) and a reduction of overall data – I do not feel the second half of the table adds much.
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests