Reviewer's report

Title: Do the structural and process quality indicators predict the outcome indicators? A cross-sectional survey to investigate the quality of nutritional care in Tuscan (Italy) nursing homes.

Version: 4 Date: 23 February 2015

Reviewer: Jiro Okochi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
This study is very interesting, because it analyzes the factor associated with malnutrition from both personal indicator, and structural and process indicator. This study is worth publishing and it provides important knowledge to researchers and clinicians of nutritional background, and also of quality management. However, there were few points which should be clarified.

Major points
In Table 3 “Eating I in the bed room” showed the largest OR. However, there was not much discussion about this explanatory valuable.

Is it really a proxy of mobility and global health status as written in the line 292? If so, more direct variable such as Barthel scale score should give larger odd ratio.

A nursing home that considers eating as an important elderly activity and participation, it is possible to bring the elderly person to the dining hall. If the elderly person eating in the bedroom, this is a kind of restriction, that may result in low activity and participation. If so, this variable is not a personal variable, but a process variable of the NH.

To analyze this, a further analysis of interaction among the factors in table 3, especially Barthel scale score and Eating in the bedroom.

Another, and a major limitation lies in the cross sectional nature of this study. Further study is required to assess the association of the development of the malnutrition using a cohort model. Please describe this limitation in the discussion section.

Minor essential revisions.
Line 121 The collection of anthropometric measurements and the evaluation of the risk of malnutrition were described in a previous article [10].

This sentence needs to be explained for those who do not have the access to this article. Or you have already explained it in line 146?

Line 168 Many of the readers are not familiar with the random intercept logit model. Please describe it briefly in the method section.
Level of interest: An article of importance 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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.