Reviewer’s report

Title: Dual use of VA and non-VA hospitals by veterans with multiple hospitalizations

Version: 6 Date: 23 March 2015

Reviewer: Evelyn Chang

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have done a lot of work on this manuscript. Their hypotheses and objectives are clearer. They were also able to add some implications relevant to current healthcare policy.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Authors may need to recheck manuscript for punctuation. Missing parentheses in line 220 and double parentheses in line 346. Double commas in line 236.
2. Also, I'm not familiar with the use of colon followed by "For example...." Suggest in these instances replacing colon with period. Otherwise, follow the colon with a list of items.

Minor Essential Revisions
3. There are several instances in the manuscript (line 60-61, 312-313, 373, 385) where the authors state that dual users’ non-VA admissions are more likely to be covered by payers other than Medicare or commercial insurance. Doesn't this only apply to duals < 65yo?
4. Also for the abstract conclusions (line 63-64), authors state that dual users require more medical and psychiatric treatment. Again, doesn't this only apply to duals < 65yo?

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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