Reviewer’s report

Title: Hospital in the Nursing Home program reduces emergency department presentations and hospital admissions from residential aged care facilities in Queensland, Australia: a quasi-experimental study

Version: 0 Date: 11 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Luigi Pizzarelli

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is very interesting and well written.

However I have some considerations regarding the methodology:

- Did you consider the potential misclassification of the exposure in the study groups? Maybe similar or comparable interventions could be implemented in the control hospital (LH). Please specify in the methodology section if you have verified the exposure in the control group.

- The clinical characteristics of the patients included in the analysis are based on Australasian Triage Scale, considering only acute conditions and not complexity or severity of chronic conditions. You should take into account in the logistic model the chronic risk factor that could have an impact on the propensity to use health services (in particular hospital admissions).

- The role of RACF is not evaluated in your analysis. Maybe you could analyse the role of different RACF in a multilevel analysis or at least compare the different organizational model of the RACFs in the two areas.

In the discussion section, it could be interesting to compare the HiNH program with other care-home model that did not have an impact in term of readmission rate respect to routine care. (Damiani et al. Hospital discharge planning and continuity of care for aged people in an Italian local health unit: does the care-home model reduce hospital readmission and mortality rates? BMC Health Serv Res. 2009 Feb 4;9:22)

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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