Author’s response to reviews

Title: Convergent validity of the interRAI-HC for societal costs estimates in comparison with the RUD Lite instrument in community dwelling older adults

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We would like to thank the reviewers for assessing the revised version of our manuscript.

Overview comments

Editorial comment:

I have only one remark. In the estimation of Home health and domestic care cost, "home nursing" (valued with the weighted standard cost for home care) was a sub-category included in the total cost estimation. Therefore I can not understand why the authors removed "home nursing" from table 1. Maybe using an asterisk and explaining that it was valued with the weighted standard cost for home care, is more appropriate. I would also like the authors to clarify
whether the costs of hours of home health care, home nursing and homemaking services were calculated separately, then summed into the Home health and domestic care category and further valuated with the weighted standard cost for home care. It seems from table 1, that the cost of home nursing was calculated and valued separately. I would like the authors to add this clarification at cost estimates section, p. 13.

Reviewer #2: The authors have addressed my concerns with their revision.

Our response:

Because of country specific categorisation of health care and social service provisioning, it was not possible to make a clear distinction between the utilisation of different types of home care services (home health care, home nursing and home making services). For that reason we had to sum the hours of home health care, home nursing and home making services into one category before we valued it. After the hours of the three types of home care services were summed, it was valuated using the weighted standard cost for home care.

We added the following in the cost estimates section, p. 13:

Because of country specific categorisation of health care and social service provisioning, it was not possible to make a clear distinction between the utilisation of different types of home care services. Therefore, hours of home health care, home nursing and homemaking services were first summed into home health and domestic care, and then valued using the weighted standard cost for home care [25].

The category home health and domestic care consists of home health care, home nursing and home making services. As home nursing is already included in this category, there was no need to add home nursing in a separate row in Table 1. In order to make this more clear in Table 1, the following was added (p.31): home health and domestic care (including home health care, home nursing and home making services)