Reviewer's report

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

Version: 0 Date: 25 Mar 2016

Reviewer: Harriet Aronow

Reviewer's report:

Well-written article on a topic of interest for health services research in the target population of older adults and need for care. The authors adequately address all the limitations to the design/methods that I was able to identify, with the one exception of clustering "home health and domestic care" into the same cost estimate. It may be my U.S. lens, but in the U.S. Home Health implies nursing care, whereas "domestic care" implies unlicensed personal care services. The cost differential is great between these two types of care in the U.S., which would argue to not collapse into one cost category. It is not clear if the categories in Table 1 of HH and domestic care and "Home Nursing" were estimated separately and then combined in Table 3 for the cost estimate comparison. What happened to the "home nursing" category? Was it included in the "weighted standard cost for home care [25]? Some clarification would be beneficial - especially since the total cost for "Home health and domestic care" is a substantial part of the total costs described in Table 4.

Other than that, only very minor typo corrections. On page 17, lines 375 and 380, I believe the ">"s in the Spearman rho stats are reversed. If that's correct, a careful review of all the "<" and">" would be prudent. In line 486-487, "...were included main analysis, ..." should be "... were included in the main analysis, ...

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

Yes

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

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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