Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of nursing home admission on health care use and disease status of dependent older people one year before and one year after skilled nursing home admission based on 2012-2013 SNIIRAM data

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Reviewer: Aline Corvol

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The article compare health care use and health status of elderly persons one year before and one year after admission in French nursing homes, with a large cohort (14 887) but only administrative data. Several findings are interesting and rise questions on health care utilization.

The data seem relevant to assess health care use but questionable concerning health status, as not all persons with dementia, for example, are covered by the "costly long term disease program" in France. So the rate of 35% for dementia is probably underestimated, despite the use of further algorithms. I would suggest the authors to focus on health care use, using only these reliable data.

The organisation of French nursing homes ("medicalised with limited of nursing staff") and the way patients are admitted (based on the choice of the person and not a level of dependency) should be explain in the introduction.

The fact that more than one third of the admitted patient die the first year should be underlined and discussed.

The increase of hip fracture after admission should be discussed and compared with the results of other cohorts.

Overall, the discussion lacks of international comparisons.

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?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Acceptable

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