Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of a multicomponent pathway to address inpatient delirium on a neurosciences ward

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Alan Valentine

Reviewer’s report:

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This is an interesting investigation of a recognized intervention against an important medical complication in an at-risk population. It is well written. The reasons for the methodology of the investigation are understandable. The results of the study seem to positively add to the growing literature on efficacy of behavioral management of delirium.

My concern is that the authors may have minimized the study's limitations, especially with regard to validity of the chart-based-method for detection of delirium, and thus confidence in the incidence rates of delirium detected. I may have missed it, but to my knowledge, the methodology has not been validated in dedicated neurological disorders units. The question of generalizability was a caution noted by Inouye et al in the JAGS paper describing the chart-based method. On general principle, the risk of over/under recognition of delirium on a neurosciences unit would reasonably be at least as great as the setting where the original study was conducted, but we don't know that.

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?
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Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes
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I am able to assess the statistics

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