Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical Predictors of Protracted Length of Stay in Ontario Complex Continuing Care Hospitals

Version: 0 Date: 29 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Amit Kumar

Reviewer's report:

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This kind of study has been done post-acute setting in other countries, so there is a lack of novelness. Although author can emphasize with the context of the Canadian health care system and payment reform in post-acute care. The manuscript can be improved by addressing some of these comments.

Abstract

process variables: it should be a process of care variables

The outcome variable is reported inconsistently throughout the paper; Somewhere it is written delayed discharge from CCC and somewhere prolonged length of stay.

Introduction:

Line 30: Patient flow in post-acute care facilities is understudied: Where in Canada?

Reference 8 is irrelevant.- It is already known that comorbidity or case-mix severity and patient functional status determines the length of stay and resource utilization in a post-acute setting. Read articles by Ottenbacher et al.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5097024/

Length of stay in the nursing home is also influenced by the type of insurance and supplement insurance. Please refer paper by Mor et al https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29944655

Line 56 -57 is confusing (total patients days is a length of stay)
Method

Information on 14 days from line 26 - 36 is confusing. It is not clear whether you are keeping it in inclusion criteria or not?

The dependent variable is a binary variable but not well defined - How you decide, what is cut-off value for the length of stay for Regular stay and Long Stay.

What is the median/mean length of stay in two groups: Please report in table 1 under each column.

Analysis: Every CCC facilities will have different characteristics. How Nursing home or CCC characteristics was adjusted in the model. I would do multilevel model

Results section: Last paragraph line 15-18 is confusing. Please, revise and make it simple.

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.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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