Reviewer’s report

Title: ‘Caveat emptor’: the cautionary tale of endocarditis and the potential pitfalls of clinical coding data: an electronic health records study

Version: 1 Date: 03 May 2019

Reviewer: Joan Casey

Reviewer's report:

- Thank you for a careful revision. Many helpful changes were implemented.
- I might suggest that the background of the abstract reflect a broader goal where endocarditis is used as a test case (and provide reason that endocarditis is a nice illustrative example).
- Abstract states that secondary codes over-estimated incidence, clarify if this was true over time.
- Perhaps remove comment on what other studies did from the abstract (i.e., conclusion, lines 65-67) and focus just on the implications of the present study. This may help other researchers not feel defensive and more accurately indicate the contribution of the present study. This step may free up a few words which could be used to add other insights from the paper to the abstract.

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.

Not applicable

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:

Acceptable

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