Reviewer's report

Title: The Global Activity Limitation Indicator and self-rated health: two complementary predictors of mortality

Version: 1 Date: 11 February 2015

Reviewer: Roberta Crialesi

Reviewer's report:

The work is very interesting and the approach used by the authors is original and well founded; the study deals with a question which has been addressed several times in the literature in the context of validation studies of survey measures, namely the power of the general health indicators, such as the Self-rated health and the Global activity limitation indicators, to predict the adult mortality.

The results are remarkable, coherent with other studies and allow to conclude that GALI, as general measure of participation restriction, is an instrument with a sufficient validity and reliability that brings an added value to general measures of health and functional status.

Regarding the title, the authors used the word "complementary" to indicate that SRH and GALI predict mortality concurrently, as shown by the models. I wonder if the word "complementary" is the most appropriate to describe this concept.

From a statistical point of view, they are both covariates with a significant net effect on the mortality rates, under the models specified.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests