Reviewer's report

**Title:** Hospital in the Nursing Home program reduces emergency department presentations and hospital admissions from residential aged care facilities in Queensland, Australia: a quasi-experimental study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 03 Dec 2015

**Reviewer:** Stephen Schoenbaum

Reviewer's report:

I have only a couple of comments about your very interesting study. Although you point in an awkwardly worded sentence on p.11 that your results are consistent with some studies and not with others, undoubtedly it is the details of the interventions that are likely to be associated with success or failure. And, I believe the critical issue is the one you raise in the last sentence of the paper, i.e., now that you have designed and implemented a seemingly effective intervention, can you transfer it into other places and get similar results? I assume that will be easier if the incentives of the hospitals and nursing homes are aligned to try to make it work. I cannot tell that from what you've written in this paper, and you might want to say something about that in the discussion.

I am struck by the huge difference in bypass hours of the two hospitals. In the U.S., what you call "bypass" is called "diversions". Usually when there is a dramatic difference between hospitals like this, it reflects a real difference in the way the institutions are managed since emergency department flow is usually related to several other factors within the hospital. That, of course, is a different subject from what you were studying; but the low bypass rate at RBWH may reflect good overall management and that may be a factor in whether or not your hospital in nursing home intervention is well-managed.

I would urge you to minimize the acronyms.

**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.

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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