

Reviewer's report

Title: Patient Complexity in Quality Comparisons for Glycemic Control: an Observational Study

Version: 1 **Date:** 26 March 2007

Reviewer: Jeff McGinn

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The use of the last available a1c value in your predictive model raises questions. Do VA medical centers test for a1c on a regular, frequent basis for their patients with diabetes (e.g. quarterly or bi-annually)? If so, would an average a1c score provide different insights?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Figure 3 didn't print correctly on the manuscript. The right edge, including part of the label was cut off at the margin.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

An possible, approximate way to incorporate socio-economic influences into your model could be achieved by determining the zip code for each patient (from their existing inpatient/outpatient records), and then append the average annual income determined in that zip using U.S. Census data.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.