Mortality estimates among adult patients with severe acute respiratory infections from two sentinel hospitals in southern Arizona, United States, 2010–2014

1. In the abstract, it is mentioned that “a 30-day post-hospitalization time frame were used”. And in the statistical analysis, it says “mortality status was defined at 30-days post admission”. Do they have the same meaning? The time frame to capture the SARI mortality confuses me.
2. In “Mortality”, there were underlying and contributing cause of death codes listed on death certificates for 28 patients. What about the other 2 patients? (Totally 30/258 patient died.)
3. Why the age is divided as “18~65” and “ $\geq 65 years$”? I think it is better to show the mortality among more detailed age division, such as “18-49 years, 50-64 years, $\geq 65 years$”.
4. I would describe the SARI case definition and collect the information about their symptoms.
5. In Page 6, there are some limitations described. One is that “ the exclusion of patients from one sentinel hospital contributed to the relatively small sample size.. such as cardiovascular, renal and neurological disease.” I would mention patients that were excluded in case ascertainment and explain why.
6. In the end of page 6, it indicates that the high frequency of ICU admission in this study support the hypothesis that there may be bias for certain risk group such as adults $\geq 65 years. $I think it is good to do chi-square test to see whether age is associated with ICU admission.

All in all, it is a good article and just need to take a small change.