Author's response to reviews

Title: Forecasting daily attendances at an emergency department using time series analysis

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Version: 4 Date: 26 December 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor-in-chief,

Thank you very much for accepting the manuscript of “Forecasting daily attendances at an emergency department using time series analysis” for publishing. We appreciate very much all your assistance during the whole process.

We have revised the paper according to both the editorial requirement (1-3) and reviewer’s suggestion (4-7). And the paper was formatted according to the journal requirement. The modifications we did were highlighted in blue in the revised manuscript and are listed as follows:

1. The abstract has been shortened to be less than 350 words.
2. The name of the board who grand the permission of the study has been added in Setting in Methodology section as “Permission to conduct the study was granted by the Chairman, Medical Board of the hospital”. The data used in the study was counts of daily patient attendances categorized by patient acuity category. No individual patient data was used. These have been illustrated in the Method section.
3. Acknowledgements section has been added.
4. The term “associated with” in the 2nd paragraph of the Discussion section had been changed to “predictive by” as suggested by the reviewer.
5. We included one more limitation of the study that we did not evaluate alternate forms of the predictor variables (e.g., squared, cubed, non-linear forms) in Discuss section as suggested by the author.
6. The term “affected” in the 2nd paragraph of Time Series Analysis in Results section has been changed to “predicted” as suggested.
7. The item "date" has been removed from the Abstract and Method section as suggested by the reviewer for avoiding misunderstanding. “date” in the study is actually the time points of the time series, not additional variable.

Any further requirement, please feel free let us know.

Best regards,

Yan Sun