Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 10 July 2008

Reviewer: Mieczyslaw Szyszkowicz

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Discretionary Revisions
1. In practice exist two working systems used to predict ED visits on ambient conditions; in Great Britain (for medical service), in Germany (for public).
2. Definition of P1-P3 is very rough. (Say if we attempt to predict ED visits for asthma, probably other factors are more relevant.). Also gender and age structure are important. In general, if we add more details, the complexity for predictions starts to grow.
3. As the authors mentioned “The model’s performance is based on historical trends. It is imperative for the forecast to be iterative and updated regularly…” – by a consequence more recent information is more valuable to say “what’s happen tomorrow”.
4. Provide a description “how to use such methodology” in practice.

Level of interest: An article of importance 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.