Reviewer's report

Title: Time series analysis of age related cataract hospitalizations and phacoemulsification

Version: 1 Date: 7 November 2005

Reviewer: Catherine A McCarty

Reviewer's report:

General
Cataract is essentially a challenge of effective delivery of cataract surgical services. The data in this manuscript help to describe the delivery of cataract surgical services in Ontario.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. Methods, page 5. The authors need to be very clear about how their rate were calculated. It appears that the numerator includes all procedures (i.e., eyes rather than individuals). How are the rates adjusted to reflect the fact that individuals may have 2 procedures yet can only appear in the denominator once?
2. Methods, page 5. How large were the moving averages, eg days, months, etc? Could the size of the moving average affect the description of seasonality?

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
It would be very useful to the readers to add further descriptive information about the delivery of eye care services in Ontario, for example what percent of people use the public system and what is the average wait time for cataract surgery?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.