Author’s response to reviews

Title: Health burden and economic impact of measles-related hospitalizations in Italy in 2002-2003.

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Dear Dr Phillips,

Thank you for your letter. We have revised the manuscript as suggested, by adding in the Methods section (subsection Sources of data) that ethical approval was not required for this study because discharge abstract data provided by the Ministry of Health did not contain any patient identifiers and was therefore completely anonymous. The study was not evaluated by our institutional ethics committee; this was not required since the research involved the study of existing data which was sent to us in such a manner that subjects could not be identified in any way. We have added a reference regarding the duties of ethics committees in Italy (Reference 12). We hope this issue has been clarified but do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

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