Author's response to reviews

Title: Pattern and determinants of hospitalization during heat waves: an ecologic study

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Dear Editor,

No ethical approval has been required for the study since:

1. the analysis of the hospital discharge database is an institutional activity of the Epidemiological Department of the Veneto Region (SER);
2. the evaluation of the health impact of heatwaves is a mandatory activity of SER according to a regional decree (n. 2067/2006);
3. all hospital discharge records analyzed in the present study were anonymized and handled according to national and regional rules on confidentiality; this appears in Methods of the revised manuscript.

English has been checked throughout the manuscript, and all changes suggested by the reviewer have been performed.