Reviewer's report

Title: Status and perspectives of hospital mortality in a public urban Hellenic hospital, based on a five-year review.

Version: 1 Date: 5 September 2007

Reviewer: Robert Anderson

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a much improved manuscript. Nearly all of my concerns have been adequately addressed, save one.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. My only remaining concern has to do with point #4 in my original review regarding the use of underlying cause. Conditions such as heart failure and kidney failure, which are important from the standpoint of health care delivery, are not coded as the underlying cause when reported as the result of some antecedent condition, such as hypertension or diabetes. As a result, it is likely that the underlying cause deaths due to heart and kidney failure significantly underestimate the burden associated with these conditions. Ideally, an analysis of these conditions ought to look at all deaths with mention of these conditions on the death certificate. For this particular paper, at the very least there should be mention of the fact that the burden of heart failure and kidney failure for this hospital is underestimated because deaths are coded to the underlying condition, eg, diabetes, hypertension, etc.

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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