Reviewer’s report

Title: In-hospital mortality after stomach cancer surgery in Spain and relationship with hospital volume of interventions

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2009

Reviewer: Barbara Peleteiro

Reviewer’s report:

In general, I think that the authors adequately addressed the points that I had previously considered. However, I still have some minor comments to make:

- The authors should give some support to the sentence “In-hospital mortality has often been considered an outcome indicator directly related with the quality of care”, providing at least one relevant reference.

- I still think that table 2 should be divided into two tables: one with the results of the secondary diagnosis and the other with the results stratified by tumor location; but I understand the possible space limitations.

- I strongly believe that figures 1 and 2 should not be presented as long as the main results are provided in the results section.

- Also references supporting the following statements are missing: “many tumours of the fundus also invade the cardia”; “Bilroth I is an uncommon intervention for gastric cancer”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.