Reviewer’s report

Title: The Italian hospitals in the web: a cross-sectional analysis of the official websites

Version: 1 Date: 25 October 2009

Reviewer: JOSE JOAQUIN J Mira

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
This paper explores if the information provided by the official websites of public and private Italian hospitals fulfill the function to facilitate the interaction and communication between users and health institutions.

1. Related previous works are discussed. The bases and relevance of this study is appropriately presented.

2. Objectives are clear.

3. The CA method is applied correctly. Authors describe methods with enough extension.

4. Although the bases and structure of the Codebook are described, authors could introduce more details about its validity to this study. They explain a previous study to design the Codebook at the end of the article meanwhile it’s probably better to introduce this explanation in the method section.

5. There other variables for cross-section analysis than region to be considered. Perhaps authors could introduce this idea as a limitation of this study.

6. There is not necessary to describe in text the same data presented in tables 4 to 8.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Table 4 is presented before table 3 in page 11.

2. The details of both additional files are excessive.

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'