Reviewer's report

Title: The Impact of EHR and HIE on Reducing Avoidable Admissions: Controlling Main Differential Diagnoses

Version: 3 Date: 29 January 2013

Reviewer: Pedro Pereira Rodrigues

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript presents an analysis of log-file data in order to inspect whether accessing medical history information from local or external sources can reduce the number of one-day admissions or readmissions within seven days. The article is now much better in terms of readability and assessment, but some issues remain.

Assessment of author's changes to this reviewer's comments:

C1-2: OK.
C3: Could be better, but OK.
C4: OK.
C5: The change was noted, but the result was not the expected. Now, we have “odds ratios” and “beta coefficients” but no actual result. The comment was meant to include in the abstract some quantitative results that support your claims. Please try to make your abstract self-sufficient for dissemination of your results.
C6-7: OK.
C8: The issue remains, but the authors clearly stated it as a limitation.
C9-11: OK.
C12: OK, but methods should not refer to tables in the results section.
C13-17: OK.
C18: Addressed, but some issues remain; “with the common 5% P-Value” should be removed, and should include a final sentence similar to “The analysis considered a significance level of 5%.”.
C19-23: OK.
C24: OK, but should be consistent among tables; for example, using n(%) instead of %(n).
C25-30: OK.
C31: Not solved: Instead of the footnote, it would be easier to add a line with “Total admissions where history was (not) viewed”; once again, would prefer n(%) instead of %(n) and remove “Percentage of” from titles.
C32: Not solved: please include a column with the actual p-values (unless lower
than 0.001, case when stating '<0.001' is acceptable).
C33: OK, but please do not hide the p-values (e.g. why was Gender not significant for UTI in table 5? Was it p=0.6 or 0.05001?).
C34: OK.
C35: Better now.
C36: Not sure if anonymizing is enough, but OK.

Major Compulsory Revisions
C5,C31-32

Minor Essential Revisions
C3,C12,C18,C24,C33

Discretionary Revisions
C8,C36

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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