Reviewer’s report

Title: Accessing the public MIMIC-II intensive care relational database for clinical research

Version: 1 Date: 13 October 2012

Reviewer: Daby Sow

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The text is well written and very easy to understand.
My biggest problem with this work is on the research contributions. I view this paper as a very well written report on an engineering task consisting of adding query capabilities to the MIMIC II database using a J2EE server and also allowing users to access the database on a VM. These are all pretty standard engineering tasks and not really the product of extensive research.

The paper is complemented with case studies attempting to prove the usefulness of the system. It is unclear to me that QueryBuilder did play a significant role in these case studies. It appears to me that the studies were mainly successful because of the original MIMIC II database. I would urge the authors to address this point, may it be by running user studies measuring the efficacy of the proposed data access tools.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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