Reviewer's report

Title: Time Series Modelling for Syndromic Surveillance

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Version: 1 Date: 18 Oct 2002

Reviewer: M. Michael M Shabot

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

This is an interesting manuscript describing several methods of predicting E.D. visits, with the purpose of detecting in unusual clusters of visits possibly associated with bioterrorism. Total visits and respiratory visits are modeled with several predictive methods.

Although the paper is well written, the bibliography and discussion of the proposed methods with prior methods is thin. An E.D. visit surveillance system has been in place in France since the early 80's, but is not referenced in the text or bibliography.

I believe the manuscript could be greatly enhanced by a more thorough review of the literature, with comparison of the authors' modeling methods with prior methods.

"Modelling" is misspelled in the title and text (only one "l").

Competing interests:

None declared.