Reviewer's report

**Title:** A markup language for electrocardiogram data acquisition and analysis (ecgML)

**Authors:**
- Mr Haiying Wang (hy.wang@ulster.ac.uk)
- Dr Francisco Azuaje (fj.azuaje@ulster.ac.uk)
- Benjamin Jung (benjamin.jung@cs.tcd.ie)
- Norman Black (nd.black@ulst.ac.uk)

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**Reviewer:** Simon Hoelzer

**Level of interest:** A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Advice on publication:** Accept after discretionary revisions

Overall this is an interesting, more technical paper that should be published in a journal of Medical Informatics. There is a strong need for modelling of medical information / data with XML in the scope of structured data collection, interchange, analysis and presentation. ECG data is one of various medical domains that have to be standardized (XML schema). Are there any standardization efforts (HL7)?

Background information / introduction is excellent.

The tables are much too comprehensive (a lot of overhead / metadata description). It would be valuable to describe (in text) some some of model components (elements, structure, attributes) in more detail.

It is rather difficult (at this stage of work) to evaluate the real benefit of an XML representation of ECG / time data. The presented model / approach is one possible solution.

We would recommend to accept the paper! Please provide the authors with all my comments.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.