Reviewer's report

Title: Modeling Emergency Department Visit Patterns for Infectious Disease Complaints: Results and Application to Disease Surveillance.

Version: 1  Date: 30 October 2004

Reviewer: Kenneth Mandl

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have responded well to previous criticisms, producing a paper that nicely describes the B-SAFER approach to outbreak detection, comparing and contrasting it with the approach taken by similar systems.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The authors should explain whether the GI outbreak described under the "Surveillance" section was confirmed with clinical or public health follow-up data or whether it was presumed based on the surveillance system findings.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None