Author's response to reviews

Title: Benchmarking of hospital information systems: Monitoring of discharge letters and scheduling can reveal heterogeneities and time trends

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Version: 3 Date: 27 February 2008

Author's response to reviews: see over
The paper contains a presentation of selected numbers of HIS performance in one German hospital. After revision, the paper is now clearer with regard to content and presentation of results. The scientific background (how did others do it? what is new? what does it mean for health informatics? etc.) could be made more clearer to the reader.

In the available literature we found only very few publications regarding HIS performance indicators that can be determined automatically from routine HIS, such as [Müller, Winter 2006], therefore our approach provides a new aspect of HIS benchmarking. This topic is addressed in the discussion section (page 10).

**page 4, "time to switch users" - this seems not related to any of the three objectives stated on page 3, and no results are presented with regard to this points**

In the results section (page 6) results for this parameter are provided: "Time to switch user accounts was 10.5 +/- 1.9 s". This parameter is relevant for objective 3 (scheduling), because differences in overall technical performance might be a source of bias for time trend analysis.

**page 10: the references stated here [5,6,7, 8, 9, 10] seem not be the best to support the given message, and the relation of the paper to CPOE systems is unclear**

References 5-10 were removed. The focus of the manuscript is HIS benchmarking, not HIS evaluation.

**Make sure that you clearly define what you mean by "completeness of a discharge letter" - it is not the completeness of the letter itself, but the availability of the discharge letter in a central IT system (e.g. Figure 1 and its description)**

Methods section (page 5) was updated to address this comment. We were analyzing electronically signed discharge letters; therefore completeness was defined according to availability of electronically signed discharge letters in the central IT system.

**Figure 5: description of x-axis and y-axis in the figure is missing**

Figure 5 was updated.