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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Answer to Editorial comments:

"... following In House Discussion of your manuscript within our Editorial Team we believe that your manuscript lacks a proper introduction. Furthermore, discussion of the state of research in the area is still missing. It is our opinion that the manuscript has to be extended to make clear what the scientific message and background is. We believe that these final revisions to your manuscript would greatly improve the impact of your work, which we note has received excellent reviews from both referees."

As suggested by the editors, background section was extended to put this manuscript in a scientific context, in particular regarding healthcare quality information management and clinical outcomes research. References were updated. Because HIS benchmarking is a relatively new area of research, publications on this topic are very sparse at present.

Discussion section was extended to put this manuscript in context with HL7's clinical document architecture (CDA) activities.

From my perspective, this is an important paper, therefore I would be delighted about publication without further delay.

Thank You and best regards,

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