Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 8 January 2008

**Reviewer:** Elske Ammenwerth

**Reviewer's report:**

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.

Some points to clarify:

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

**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:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'