Reviewer’s report

Title: Are waiting times for hospital admissions affected by patients' choices and mobility?

Version: 3 Date: 10 January 2011

Reviewer: Rod Sheaff

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have met the main points which this reviewer, and it would appear my co-reviewer, have made. The statistical modelling has been extended but this improvement now suggests one final minor revision which might be made at the end of section 4. That is, to add a brief explanation of the following points in the results in the revised table 3 in the technical analysis:

1. Some correlations (e.g. waiting times: ICD10 chapter 2) appear across all the models (or in the case of waiting times: 'Choice & mobile', across all models in which they appear). Other correlations do not. So, which correlations have the stronger support and how are we to interpret these findings?

2. In two of the models health status is inversely correlated with waiting time. How are we to interpret that finding?

3. Explain (for non-statistician readers) what 'have now been instrumented' means.

4. Add a sentence summarising what empirical conclusions can be drawn from the four models, taken together, about the impact of choice and mobility upon hospital waiting times.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.