Reviewer's report

Title: Payments and quality of care in private for-profit and public hospitals in Greece

Version: 3 Date: 27 June 2011

Reviewer: david himmelstein

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions:

1- It would be interesting to know whether any of the hospital characteristics that you have information on (in addition to ownership status) are also predictors of the outcome measures that you analyze. Thus, I might look at multivariate models that include bed size, hospital specialty, and percent social insurance scheme patients, both with and without ownership status.

2- I'd call length of stay and cost "efficiency" measures, rather than outcome or quality measures.

3- Page 11, first paragraph - You say that the three social insurance schemes accounted for 57.8% of the patients at the private clinics. This seems in conflict with your earlier observation that these schemes enroll 85% of the Greek population. Please explain this seeming conflict.

4- The divergence in ALos between the 2 data sources is quite striking. You discuss the explanation for this only briefly on Page 15, second paragraph, sentences 5 and 6. I would expand this discussion somewhat.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests