Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 29 June 2011

Reviewer: Lila Antonopoulou

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Minor Essential Revisions

In my point of view the reviewed paper is scientifically sound (research questions are well defined, methods are appropriate, correlation with previous research findings and limitations are clearly stated), constituting a useful contribution to its field.

1. Abstract, first paragraph: rather than “empirical evidence has been gathered …” the authors should instead write “Empirical evidence on how ownership type affects the quality and cost of medical care is growing, and …”

2. Abstract, second paragraph: instead of “We prepared and analyzed five …” the authors should write “Five different data sets were prepared and analyzed …”

3. Background, fifth paragraph: rather than “this may be related either to the lack of teaching activities or a higher average length of stay”, the authors should write that “this may be related either to the lack of teaching activities or to the higher average length of stay”

4. Background, fifth paragraph: In this paragraph the authors offer a review of the European experience on comparative quality evaluation. In my knowledge, it is the first time for such a review to be carried out. Nevertheless, the authors should update their review including papers recently published, concerning for example comparative quality evaluation of nursing homes in Italy and Sweden.

5. Methods, second and fifth paragraph: in both cases the word “kindly” is not necessary.

6. Results, fifth paragraph: There is a missing parenthesis in this paragraph.

7. Discussion, first paragraph: the authors before discussing the strengths and limitations of their study should include a short introductory paragraph summarizing the main findings of their study.

8. Discussion, sixth paragraph: the term “supplier-induced patient demand” is incorrect. Instead the authors should write that “this raises ethical concerns, whether supplier-induced demand plays a role in the Greek private hospital sector”.

Discretionary Revisions

9. Discussion, conclusion: Exceeding the initial objective of the paper, the results of this study, also show both the incompetence of public administration in Greece
as well as the money flow from public funds to private providers. It would be of international interest if the authors could shortly address the following questions: is there a connection between their findings and the recent debt crisis in Greece? Are any measures taken by the government to cope with these inefficiencies?

**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 in relation to the paper.