Reviewer's report

Title: Development and feasibility of a set of quality indicators relative to the timeliness and organisation of breast cancer care

Version: 2 Date: 1 March 2012

Reviewer: Maria Piera Mano

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

1) Methods are not described in sufficient detail. For example:
   - How many hospitals received the initial approach by the study? Is their case volume distribution known? (any volume cut-off?)
   - Please provide as additional material the explanatory guide and the grid.
   - Please provide a flow chart describing the number of hospitals initially approached, compliance, exclusions (at least 30 records?).
   - Please state clearly from which number of hospitals as above described you obtained the 5215 records you started with.
   - At which stage was the 30 records criteria applied?

2) Please provide in greater detail the results of the two preliminary tests.

3) Results

4) The management of missing values should be described and they should be reported

5) Discussion:
   - The authors should provide brief comments on results from each of the 8 indicators.
   - Q1 proved unfeasible because of problems in interpretation. Why not also Q2 which uses the same critical date (first appointment with surgeon)?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'