Reviewer's report

Title: Reducing unnecessary hospital days to improve quality of care through physician accountability: a cluster randomised trial

Version: 2 Date: 15 July 2012

Reviewer: Massimiliano Panella

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revision:
1) The trial is monocentric, which, as stated by the authors, does not ensure generalizability to any settings. Moreover, the lack of comparison with other centers does not allow to rule out confounders. According to this I suggest the Authors to clearly state the possible pitfalls of this study in the specific Limitation section, addressing clearly these methodological issues and identifying possible strategies in order to reduce them.

2) The results suggests raising awareness reduces length of stay in the short term, but did not result in a statistically significant measurable impact in the long term. I think that this is also a very important limitations to the Authors' findings. I think that a possible hatwhorne effect could be partially responsible of the results that have being obtained. Therefore I suggest the Authors to fully address this issue in the Discussion section.

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