Reviewer's report

Title: Effects of Neighborhood Geodemographic Profiles on Healthcare Service Wait Time: A Case Study on Cardiac Care

Version: 6 Date: 25 March 2013

Reviewer: Nathaniel Bell

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions.

Couple of items.

1. The authors did a great job commenting on all of the reviews. While I do not agree with all of their responses, they have made great strides in making this a more presentable piece.

2. One item that I am having difficulty with is their insistence on using the LHIN's as proxy measures of neighbourhoods. This is, in my opinion, unacceptable and cannot be substantiated.

3. The paper also suffers from a lack of context to help direct the results. As it is currently written, the manuscript is really heavy on the methodology and results. I suggested in my last review that there are way too many hypothesis for one manuscript. I am puzzled as to why they have not chosen to simplify their piece (e.g. 1 hypothesis) and expand on how the methodology is relevant, how decision makers should interpret this, and what other areas it is relevant for. All of this information is there, but its rather hidden.

4. The authors revert back to their study being a 'contextual' study as opposed to a 'compositional' analysis - I disagree.

5. It does not appear that the authors are actually using arrival data from each of the cities within the LHINs - just using the hospital data to measure use and then inferring that demand is equally distributed within the cities based on population size and demographics. There is no mention of other factors that dictate demand (e.g. co-morbidities). This limitation needs to be made clearer.

6. The last sentence in the first paragraph of the discussion "Further, as LHINs are the only organizations in Ontario to plan and allocate healthcare resources ... " is circular.

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.