Reviewer’s report

Title: The Impact of a Pay-per-Performance System on the Quality of Care of Patients with Hip Fracture: Experience from the Lazio Region (Italy).

Version: 2 Date: 30 April 2013

Reviewer: Juhani Lehto

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting study which is linked to health care reform policies in many countries. It adds to knowledge on the impact of payment methods on one patient group in one particular context, and together with many other studies to the opportunities to make generalizations on the impact of payment methods.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The heading of the article gives a rather large promise of assessing the impact of payments reform on quality. The article only deal with one aspect of quality, the timing of the surgical operation. I suggest that the heading is changed to reflect better to the narrow content.

2. Although the patient mixes of the different hospital types might not have changed during the study period, they probably are different, for instance in terms of the socio-economic characteristics of the patients. This may have impact on the flexibility of the hospitals to react to the changes in payment. Thus, information about the differences might be useful for the readers and their impact on the differences between different hospitals could be discussed.

3. The differences between private and public hospitals is probably not only restricted to differences in payments (only DRG, also other methods). Are they also different in terms of narrow/large patient mix, different role of elective/emergency patients, number of different specialities etc? In addition to payments metyhods and the socio-economic mix of patients, also such differences might effect the flexibility to react to cahnges in payment methods. These issues could be mentioned and discussed, although the emöpirical study does not give an answer to them.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.