Reviewer's report

**Title:** Efficiency of Health Centers Groups in Lisbon and Tagus Valley - An approach with Data Envelopment Analysis

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 18 August 2013

**Reviewer:** andrea guerrini

**Reviewer's report:**

The article enquires the performance of Health Center Groups in a Portuguese region. Despite its relevance, it need of some major compulsory revision.

**MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS**

1) The most significant weakness of the paper concerns the literature review. I think authors have to better enquire prior publications referred to performance and efficiency measurement in health care structure, in order to:
   a. Made the “state of art” of this issue
   b. Develop the research questions and hypothesis of the paper
   c. Justify the method chosen.

As a consequence, I suggest to make a wide review of prior literature, improving the list of references cited in the paper.

2) Equity of access to health care and quality of service are two furthers variables observed. However, the paper seem to focus only on efficiency if the title, the introduction and the method section are read. So, I suggest authors to emphasize “equity” and “quality” in the cited section.
   a. A change of the title is strictly advised
   b. The objective paragraph has to be improved with the reference to equity and quality, which now are not considered.
   c. Some publications concerned with these variables have to be cited.

3) The influence of environment on efficiency is the last section of the discussion of results part. In this version of the paper authors make their comments directly in table 7. I strictly reccomand to dalay this table and to write comments in the main text.

**MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS**

1) The number of table are now not indicated. Please, write the right number

2) The references cited in the main text are not completed with the year. Please, write the right year.

**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'