Reviewer's report

Title: Development and impact of the Iranian hospital performance measurement program

Version: 4
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Reviewer: Steffen Flessa

Reviewer's report:

General comment: we know very little about the performance, about the measurement of performance and about the impact of measuring performance of hospitals. Thus, this is an important paper that gives insights into a number of questions relevant for Iran and beyond.

However, I have one major point: the methodology section is too weak. We learn not enough about the instrument and how it was applied. You should spend much more effort on that. In addition, you should up-load the instrument (in English) so that we can analyse it. Without that it is impossible to assess the validity of the measurement and consequently the relevance of your paper.

Minor issues:
- try to attach the references where they belong to. Too many statements without reference, and too many references at one time e.g. [7-6].
- try to separate more clearly results and methods, e.g. lines 187 -193 are clearly methods shown in results.
- your tables are interesting - but unless we know how you got these results they are useless.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

none at all