Author’s response to reviews

Title: Does managed care make a difference? Physicians’ length of stay decisions under managed and non-managed care

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The changes we made to the manuscript are:
. We included a title page.
. We included the abstract on page 2.
. Headings are written in a bigger font.
. The "<table x> and <scheme>" text has been removed.
. Journal names are written abbreviated, following the Index Medicus/Medline.
. All tables have been named “Table” and are included in order of appearance. References in the text are corrected.
. Table 1 has been turned.

Changes in response to the comments:
. DRG names as well as number are presented whenever referred to.
. In the methods section a sentence is added to explain that separate models were fit for each year.
. Covariances are explained in the results section, as they present the relation between variation in length of stay and the proportion of HMO-patients.

Essential revisions:
. A private note has been removed.
. In the method section we added that the variance is used as measure of variation.
. "Regression" is changed in "Ordinary least squares regression", where necessary.