Reviewer's report

Title: An analysis of patient house calls in the area of Attica, Greece

Version: 1 Date: 19 July 2006

Reviewer: Igor Svab

Reviewer's report:

General

This is an overview of emergency services in an area of Greece. The SOS services obviously try to maintain some continuity of emergency services. Unfortunately, the design of the study does not permit to assess these interesting organisational aspects.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Organisation of PHC in Greece in relation to house calls needs to be more clearly described. It seems that the services are split between in-service hours and out-of-hours. It is not clear whether the doctors see their own patients or not. This is very relevant to the article! The home visits that are declining throughout the world are the ones that are mostly the ones done during regular hours by personal doctors. Emergency services are another organisational form and the distinction should be made.

The conclusion is very weak: what is the recommendation from this study? The last sentence may be true, but I failed to see the evidence for it in the data.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests