Reviewer's report

Title: The implementation of quality management systems in hospitals: a comparison between three countries.

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2005

Reviewer: Susana Lorenzo

Reviewer's report:

Methods are appropriate and well described. I would recommend the authors to reorganise the discussion, from my point of view they should start with the study limitations.
I think that the content of the table in page 5 should be redacted in a paragraph, explaining a little bit the topics.
The title and the abstract are accurate. Discussion and conclusions are well balanced and supported by the data. However the authors should point out the response rate.
Even though writing is acceptable, I think that the whole paper should be reviewed before publishing by an English native speaker (some paragraphs seem to be directly translated from Hungarian, Danish or Finish, and some others are not correct: “European Foundation for Quality…” page 3, “their standards have been developed…” page 3, etc.). The paper needs some language corrections before being published.
References' consistency should be checked too according to Vancouver’s requirements.

As far as I know, there is no redundant publication on this study.
Based on my assessment of the validity of the manuscript, I do advise that the paper is accepted after discretionary revisions. I think that it is an article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests