Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring hospital-wide activity volume for patient safety and infection control: A multi-centre study in Japan

Version: 1 Date: 23 April 2007

Reviewer: Daniel R Longo

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
Yes. However, the abstract is a bit confusing and makes it uncertain for the reader on how the framework fits in.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
yes - excellent

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
I would like to see medical intensity or severity of illness as a co-variate.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes but the charts are unnecessary and some of the tables should be re-evaluated for inclusion. I believe they can be cut to a smaller number.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
yes

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
yes

7. Is the writing acceptable?
yes

Please make your review as constructive and detailed as possible in your comments so that authors have the opportunity to overcome any serious deficiencies that you find and please also divide your comments into the following categories:

- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)
  Use of co-variates mentioned above

- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
  eliminate charts and re-examine the necessity of all tables.

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
  None