Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of SAMU on the profile of non-traumatic emergency cases treated at a university hospital: a research study

Version: 1 Date: 11 January 2007

Reviewer: Lars Lind

Reviewer's report:

General
Interesting study showing that introduction of mobile teams could govern the patient flow to the emergency department towards patients with a higher severity of illness. These are however several issues that have to be clarified:

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. SAMU is not known to everybody. It cannot therefore be used in isolation in the title, abstract etc. This has to be explained.
2. You do not have to validate the APACHE II score. This has been done several times in the past and could be removed.
3. Please define comobidity and in-hospital complications
4. It is not given somewhere if the total number of subjects differer between the two periods.
5. I think the analysis presented in table 4 does not add anything to the main message of the study. Please delete.
6. In general, the manuscript is very talkative. Please try to condence especially the background and discussion. The message is clear that the introduction of SAMU improved the flow to the ED. This massage will come through more clearly if you cut down the background and discussion by 50% and concentrate on the main message.

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

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

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:
I receive honoraria and research grants from AstraZeneca Sweden.