Reviewer’s report

Title: The implementation of the Medical Regulation Office and Mobile Emergency Attendance System and its impact on the gravity profile of non-traumatic afflictions treated in a University Hospital: a research study

Version: 3 Date: 28 February 2007
Reviewer: Bekele Afessa

Reviewer’s report:

General
I believe the manuscript by Lopes and colleagues is well written and will be an excellent contribution to the medical literature. The authors have addressed most of my concerns satisfactorily. However, I still have two major concerns.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. The authors’ response about not reporting calibration is not satisfactory. Although they may not be able to compare the calibration between the two periods, calculation of calibration is easily performed by the statistical software (SPSS) they used.
2. In their response to my previous review, the authors have stated that the collected data do not allow them to do multiple logistic regression analysis. This response is inadequate. For each of the study subjects, the authors have collected APACHE II score and study period (for predictor variables) as well as mortality (outcome variable). Based on these data, the authors should be able to perform multiple logistic regression analysis with no additional information.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. Use “.” instead of “,” for decimal places.
2. Page 5, line 1, replace “through analysis of” with “from”.
3. On page 6, the first paragraph of the discussion section, the numbers “139.137, 50.214, 19.511 and 11.927” need to be changed to “139,137, 50,214, 19,511 and 11,927”.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.