Author's response to reviews

Title: Primary care physician supply and other key determinants of health care utilisation: The case of Switzerland

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Version: 4 Date: 10 November 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sirs,

Thank you for reviewing our article entitled "Primary care physician supply and other key determinants of health care utilisation: The case of Switzerland"

According to the comments of the reviewer, we extended the methods section of the article.

All additions and corrections are described below and are made visible in one of the accompanying files.

We now resubmit the article for your consideration and look forward to your thoughts and comments.

with best regards

A. Busato & B. Künzi

We clarified the nature of the outcome variable of the statistical model used in the paper, i.e. the annual per capita consultation rate with a primary care physician for each community in the year 2004. This variable has 2762 observations and is derived from a normal probability distribution with a few outliers at right tail of the histogram (see histogram below). Linear models are therefore a reasonable form to analyze this type of data.
We improved the description of analysis of model fit at the end of the paragraph describing the data analysis.

We also improved the description of fixed and random effects of the model (section data analysis, paragraph with the model structure).

We are however unable to calculate standard errors of variance components in table 5. As we used a non Bayesian approach with on one single model these data are not estimates but describe a distinct feature of this particular modelling procedure.