Reviewer's report

Title: An ecological study on the relationship between supply of beds in long-term care institutions in Italy and potential care needs for the elderly.

Version: 2 Date: 27 August 2009

Reviewer: Howard Bergman

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   Yes, authors answered our points

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   Yes, authors answered our points

3. Are the data sound?
   Yes, authors answered our points
   As mentioned in our previous report, it is essential that this manuscript be seen by an expert statistician before being published

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes,
   Discretionary Revisions
   Results section is quite long especially for reporting on Social and health context, Complementary and alternative services for the elderly and Informal care. May be a summary table should be considered.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   The discussion was improved as the authors discuss more their own results.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   The authors have reported the limitations of the study in the appendix. We would have liked to see the limitations as part of the article as it is use to be.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes, but the writing should be revised for the abstract

9. Is the writing acceptable?
The writing should be revised before considering publication

Michele Monette
Johanne Monette
Howard Bergman

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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