Reviewer’s report

Title: Urban air pollution and emergency room admissions for respiratory symptoms: a case-crossover study in Palermo, Italy.

Version: 2 Date: 21 February 2011

Reviewer: Mieczyslaw Szyszkowicz

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. You use ER in your abstract without an explanation. I suggest, in first sentence with “emergency room”, to add (ER)

2. In table 1 you have two different abbreviations ER and ED, I prefer ED (Emergency department) in whole paper, also in the title – up to you, but please be consistent.

Discretionary Revisions

1. On page 9 (bottom) you signalize “distributed lag model” – but not any results reported. (To be clearly, I expect here that you used some models with constrained coefficients (?)).

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

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