Reviewer's report

Title: Does type of hospital ownership influence physicians' daily work schedules? An observational real-time study in German hospital departments

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2009

Reviewer: Michael Spallek

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? Yes
3. Are the data sound and well controlled? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? see minor revisions
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
7. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

Minor Essential Revision

An indication of table 2 is missed in the text (methods)
The number of patients treated per day should be added to table 4
An explanation for the last 3 lines in table 4 is not given in the text. If these lines stay in the table, CI should replace the SD values. Otherwise the author can skip these data.

The difference between the length of a workday with respect to the number of treated patients and i.e. communication with patients should be discussed more in detail for "private for profit" and "public". Can this difference be explained by deficites in the hospital organization or administrative duties?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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