Reviewer's report

Title: Why are heart operations postponed?

Version: 1 Date: 11 May 2011

Reviewer: Stella S. Daskalopoulou

Reviewer's report:

This is a very nice study assessing the reasons for postponement of heart operations in a large University Institution.

The paper is nicely written. I have some comments that the authors may need to address.

1) Please comment on the relevant available literature. How do your experience and findings compare with other studies which have also assessed the reasons of postponement of heart operations in other institutions?

2) What is the mean (SD) time of delay in the postponed operations and in the non-postponed operations?

Minor comments

3) On page, under Discussion, 2nd paragraph, line 6 please delete the word 'lack'.

4) On page 4, under Discussion, the abbreviation COPD has not been used before.

5) Table 1: replace the word 'two' with the number 2.

6) Table 2: Replace Gender by Gender (male).

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.