Multimedia Appendix 1

Description of variables and general characteristics of the study population for five Swiss general hospital types.

Table A. Description of the study variables

| Variables            | Short description                                                                 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Case identifier      | Unique anonymous numeric identifier for each case                                  |
| Age                  | Age of patient in five-year groups                                                 |
| Sex                  | Patient’s sex                                                                     |
| Hospital identifier  | Unique anonymous numeric identifier for each hospital                              |
| Hospital type        | Hospital FSO classification code                                                  |
| Admission date       | Patient’s date of hospital admission                                              |
| Discharge date       | Patient’s date of discharge from hospital                                          |
| Primary Diagnosis    | ICD-10 GM primary patient diagnosis code                                           |
| Secondary diagnosis  | ICD-10 GM secondary patient diagnosis code                                         |
| Procedure            | CHOP code for procedure taken for patient                                          |

FSO: Federal Statistics Office; ICD-10 GM: International Classification of Diseases- version 10 German Modification; CHOP: Swiss Operation Classification
Table B. General characteristics of the study population

| Hospital Types             | Number of hospitals | Inpatients | Discharges | Length of stay (days) |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
|                            | N (%)               | Males (%  )| Females (%)| Mean (95% CI)         |
|                            |                     | N = 1,214,875 | N = 1,198,496 | Median (IQR)         |
| University Hospitals       | 5 (4.9)             | 116,143 (20.5) | 120,506 (18.6) | 8.76 (8.65–8.86) |
|                            |                     | 113,910 (20.4) | 118,217 (18.5) | 4.12 (2.04–9.12) |
| Tertiary care hospitals    | 39 (38.2)           | 339,551 (60.0) | 385,766 (59.4) | 6.06 (6.04–6.08) |
|                            |                     | 335,185 (60.1) | 380,624 (59.4) | 3.67 (2.04–6.96) |
| Large basic hospitals      | 15 (14.7)           | 49,930 (8.8)  | 60,708 (9.4)  | 5.33 (5.29–5.37) |
|                            |                     | 49,449 (8.9)  | 60,123 (9.4)  | 3.33 (1.96–5.96) |
| Medium basic hospitals     | 27 (26.5)           | 52,955 (9.4)  | 71,624 (11.0) | 4.93 (4.9–4.97) |
|                            |                     | 52,501 (9.4)  | 7,1029 (11.1) | 3.25 (1.96–5.38) |
| Small basic hospitals      | 16 (15.7)           | 7,122 (1.3)   | 10,570 (1.6)  | 7.67 (7.52–7.82) |
|                            |                     | 7,051 (1.3)   | 10,407 (1.6)  | 4.12 (2.04–9.12) |
| Total                      | 102 (100)           | 565,701 (100) | 649,174 (100) | 6.43 (6.40–6.46) |
|                            |                     | 558,096 (100) | 640,400 (100) | 3.7 (2.00–7.00) |

CI: Confidence Interval, IQR: Intra-Quartile Range