Reviewer's report

Title: Estimating the case numbers of hand, foot and mouth disease among children under-five in Beijing of China based on a telephone survey of healthcare-seeking behavior

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Reviewer: Xianjun Wang

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The manuscript by Wang et al presents conducting a telephone survey of healthcare seeking behavior to estimate the true case numbers of HFMD among children under-five in Beijing of China. Generally, the paper is interesting and the analyses appear technically competent, though some aspects of the methods need clarification.

Minor comments:

1) It is necessary to introduce the difference between laboratory-conformed cases, clinically diagnosed HFMD, and symptomatic cases or self-defined HFMD. Which data were included in the NNIDRIS?

2) It is necessary to describe how to select samples for isolate in Beijing? And if these samples covered all clinically diagnosed HFMD with different symptoms.

3) It could be necessary to discuss if other diseases such as varicella could be included in self-defined HFMD by parents or guardians of children, which could influence the estimation of the burden of HFMD.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.