Reviewer's report

Title: Regional Variation in Hospitalization for Stroke among Asians/Pacific Islanders in the United States: a Nationwide Retrospective Cohort Study

Version: 2 Date: 9 August 2005

Reviewer: Tobias Back

Reviewer's report:

I have carefully read the manuscript, its revision, the referees comments and the authors' reply.

I regard the retrospective cohort study as an important contribution to the topic of stroke epidemiology examining the ethnic as well as regional heterogeneity of incidence of hospitalized stroke in the US. The authors have responded with great care to the points raised by the referees including recalculations and new statistical testing in some instances.

In his re-review, reviewer 1 suggests to clarify the ICD numbers for inclusion. This minor, but important point should be corrected or clarified. Otherwise the revision serves all critical comments in a sufficient way so that I recommend acceptance of the paper.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions