Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with tocolytic hospitalizations in Taiwan: evidence from a population-based and longitudinal study from 1997 to 2004

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Reviewer: valerie smith

Reviewer's report:

The authors should be commended for the detail provided on the background and rationale for this study which is well-written and informative. The title and abstract reflect the manuscripts content. The research question is clearly described and the results are presented in table form backed by textual commentary. However I have a number of concerns in relation to this paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. The description of data analysis using the probit model tends towards a reader with statistical knowledge or expertise. While detailed, it is potentially confusing to a reader without such knowledge and may impact on the credibility of the results presented in this paper. I would suggest, recognising the necessity for statistical formulae, to provide a plain language summary of the probit model to further enhance an understanding of this model for potential readers.

2. In the 'background' section of this manuscript the authors refer to two recent developments in Taiwan that make this study interesting....it is for these reasons that I questions the study's relevance to populations and/or health care systems/providers outside of this country. while interesting, of significance and worthy of future research, the findings of this study are not generalisable to the wider population outside of Taiwan. This is a major limitation to this study that requires recognition.

Minor essential revisions:

1. Page four of the manuscript states 'the total fertility rate dropped from 1.760 in 1996 to 1.180 in 2004'. What do these figures allude to? e.g. 1.760 per x amount of the population etc. This needs to be made clear to the reader.

2. Table 1 requires further clarification as to the figures provided, e.g. the figures provided for Age and Wage - clarify if these relate to the mean in the table, Having a major disease card - e.g. does the figure provided indicate N of the total population who gave birth, etc.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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