Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 29 September 2009

Reviewer: Ciaran S Phibbs

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a good job addressing the concerns raised by the reviewers. I agree with their assessment that the additional analysis that I suggested on the excluded cases does not fit into the manuscript. But, the fact that the estimate for the fertility rate changed in the expected direction for the excluded cases is a good validation check.

I have one minor essential revision. Page 11, discussion section. When the authors mention glucocorticoids. This needs to be reworded, as these are not tocolytic agents. One possible term could be "antenatal steroids." For the author's understanding, there are two different therapies that are usually given in conjunction for cases of preterm labor. Tocolytic agents are given to try and stop, or at least delay, preterm labor. Glucocorticoids are a separate agent given to speed fetal lung maturity.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.