Reviewer's report

Title: Differences in Risk Factors for Children With Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Receiving Needed Speciality Care by Socioeconomic Status

Version: 6 Date: 26 March 2009

Reviewer: Ashley Skinner

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:

Discussion: Most of the discussion remains little more than a reiteration of the results section without the exact numbers. For example, the paragraph on maternal education. The authors need to comment on why there is a differential effect of education by SES—and, more importantly, why we should care about that. What effect does that have on policy?

The authors also need to be cautious that their comments match the findings. They mention that age is a significant predictor but only for those >300% FPL. While this is true, the p-value is 0.03 in a sample of nearly 40,000, and the OR is very small (1.07). While it may be statistically significant, is there actually any practical significance to this finding?

The remainder of the discussion should be examined through the same lens.

Minor essential revisions:

General: Overall, the manuscript is much improved. I think some additional changes are needed, particularly in the writing of the discussion.

Some of your citations are out of order—you start with 3.

Methods: The additional section on the “conceptual framework” is a significant improvement. I believe this can be tightened some, however. For example, almost all kids under 100% FPL will qualify for Medicaid, but the 100-200 group is heavily dependent on age and state. Perhaps referencing something indicating the coverage types for children in each income strata would make this clearer. This should ease the transition to how each SES class will have access to a different set of providers and services.

Results: Much improved.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
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.