Reviewer’s report

Title: Variation of cataract surgery costs in four different graded providers of China

Version: 4 Date: 14 July 2010

Reviewer: Van Charles C Lansingh

Reviewer’s report:

1. Background: change “Third World” to “developing.”

2. Background: “Among 24 screening group subjects...” please unclear; please rewrite for clarity.

3. Background: “Average costs incurred by cataract surgery alone in the United Kingdom were about US$620 in 2004 dollars, but another research demonstrated that the cost is US$3461...” Authors need to explain that this is the difference between direct and indirect costs.

4. Methods: “Check fees.” Please clarify—I am not familiar with this phrase.

5. Discussion: Surgeons appear to be using mostly phacoemulsification. Why is manual small incision surgery not being considered in rural areas? It would be much cheaper, provide comparable results, and would not necessitate expensive equipment.

6. I think you could improve your literature review using primary source papers, not other articles that sight the figures, for example, the CSR you mention in India is incorrect with most recent data

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

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