Reviewer's report

Title: Distinguishing the Types and Severity of the Disabilities of the Farm Population: Evidence from the National Farmers' Health Insurance Program in Taiwan

Version: 2 Date: 5 August 2010

Reviewer: Robert Meyer

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions.

The title is better, I'm not convinced that the severity is supported.

The primary objective is stated on page 6 "...to determine the farm-related disability payments arising from the FHI program in Taiwan." (although in your abstract you state "...the disability payments of the FHI program in Taiwan are not primarily compensation for occupational risks related to farming." Based on what you have presented, I don't think you can definitively state that the disability payments are farm-related. The data you have presents an interesting picture of the payments made to individuals who report their occupation as "farmer".

Discussion and Conclusions:

State what you have found for this population as it relates to public health concerns. One obvious one would be to determine the causes of the highest compensated claim type: eye related problems in rural areas, and since the payments increase with age, are there preventative measures that you would suggest. Is the root cause age-related, heredity, environmental, infectious, occupational?

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have not competing interests.