Reviewer’s report

Title: Ecological analysis of health care utilisation for China's rural population: association with a rural county’s socioeconomic characteristics

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2010

Reviewer: Tuohong Zhang

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Transitional period and NCMS (New rural cooperative medical scheme, a social health insurance in rural China) changes its coverage over time. The survey data was from 2003 when NCMS was in the pilot stage and not yet scaled up around the country. NCMS will cover almost all rural residents in 2010 and the protection will also be improved over time. The author needs to understand the situation and remain in mind of it in his discussion session.

One discussion point about drug use and medical expenses are not related to the findings. Please revise and make the discussion more relevant.

Chinese health reform has already been approved. Please correct the text.

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'