Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 9 September 2010

Reviewer: Emma Heeley

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. It is unusual to determine the variance of variables using the R2, it is typically used for goodness of fit, please provide a reference and use the term variability and explain in the methods.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  2. In 2003 how many counties in the NHSS survey and your analyses had rolled out health insurance schemes?
  3. I am unclear as to why there was no test for interactions within the model. I suspect that there is an interaction between Health insurance and rural class. Why was this not investigated?

Discretionary Revisions
4. Please include the name of the Supervisor in the acknowledgements

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'