Reviewer's report

Title: Rural-urban differences in neonatal mortality in a poorly developed province of China

Version: 5 Date: 7 June 2011

Reviewer: Susan Hughes

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Discretionary revisions
None

Minor issues not for publication – remaining edits for clarity

1. Background third paragraph fourth sentence: Remove first ‘the’ so sentence reads “Gansu province is located in north-west China ....”
2. Methods first paragraph last sentence: Add space between ‘2004’ and ‘to’
3. Results second paragraph first sentence: Sentence should end with the word ‘pneumonia’ the word ‘however’ can be removed
4. Discussion eighth paragraph second, third & fourth sentences: Combine second and fourth sentences, in the third sentence add ‘of’ and change tense of ‘occurring’ to read “One strategy could be increasing institutional delivery rates, based on the finding that nearly half neonatal death occurred during the first day of life, and medical treatment can be effective. It is reported that 30% of rural deliveries occurred out of hospital in Gansu province in 2008.”
5. Discussion ninth paragraph second sentence change ‘exit’ to ‘exist’

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.