Author's response to reviews

Title: Rural-to-urban Migration and Its Implication for NCMS Coverage and Utilization in rural China

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Cover Letter

We appreciate the comments from the reviewers and the work of the editor. To make the manuscript easier to read by international readers, we have invited a native English speaker to help us polish English as suggested by reviewers.

Response to Dr. Rachel Tolhurst’s comments
Comment a: The inclusion criteria for counties included being a NCMS pilot county (except for the control county), and being a national-level poor county. We have added this into the manuscript.

Comment b, c, d: We have done revisions in the manuscript.

Comment e, f, g: We have revised our English in the manuscript to address these issues.

Comment h: We agree with the reviewer that Chinese internal migrants are facing different issues compared to international immigrants, though there are some similarities. After serious consideration, we moved it from the manuscript to avoid potential confusions.

Response to Dr. Weiyan Jian’s comments
Comment 1: In the study, although we could not test causality, we examined the associations between migration, household economic status, and NCMS enrollment, as well as NCMS utilization by rural-to-urban migrant compared to rural residents. In order not to make confusion, we have revised our expression in the background section.
Comment 2: Since the dependent variables, including household economic status and enrollment of the NCMS, were household level variables, we think it is more appropriate to include household level independent variables than individual level variables in the model.

Comment 3: We think we have addressed this issue in the discussion section. (See the sixth paragraph in the 4.1: “In our study, the surplus proportion in funds was 24% in Hong’an County and 30% in Langzhong and Fushun County, even after the second round reimbursement in 2006 (which were much higher than 15% set by the government). A large surplus proportion indicates the low reimbursement rate of the NCMS. These raise important questions of improvement of the funding management strategies, and extending benefits to rural-to-urban migrants under NCMS.)