Reviewer's report

Title: Medical Expenditures Associated with Nonfatal Occupational Injuries among Immigrant and U.S.-born Workers

Version: 1 Date: 9 December 2011

Reviewer: Leigh Wilson

Reviewer's report:

The authors have begun to look at occupational medical utilization in US-born vs immigrant worker through the lens of expenditures. This is a very difficult problem to assess, as they discuss, in this country undocumented workers are a group with limited data and who may hold very dangerous jobs. Early on, the article needs to address that in the United states, the worker's compensation fund plays a large role in payment for workplace injuries. Usually it is not a patient's private insurance or the state insurance which pays for workplace related injuries. Understandably, the authors are using available data to begin looking at this topic.

In order to better understand the difference between "outpatient" care and "office-based", the authors should define these, is one an "urgent-care" setting?

In the abstract "results" and in formal the results section, "occupation injuries" should be changed to "occupational".

Under the heading "immigration status" respondents in US territories come from more than one "culture"--the sentence should be re-worded to acknowledge that.

Under the heading, "Health insurance coverage" TRICARE and SCHIP should be defined (and TRICARE added to the acronyms section at the end).

Under the heading "Statistical analyses", the sentence "The log transformation...did not work in our study", could use an explanation of why it did not work in the study.

In the Results section, please explain "FPL" in the text as well as the acronyms section.

In the Discussion, page 21, sentence starting "Results from a few previous...", the references should be located before the "." Also, this page is the first mention of worker's compensation (and workers needs an apostrophe), which as mentioned above is a very important part of payment for workplace injuries in the US.

In the Study limitations section, the second line needs the word "the" between to and US.
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 no competing interests