Reviewer's report

Title: Medical Care Usage and Self-Rated Mental Health

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2004

Reviewer: Hynek Pikhart

Reviewer's report:

General

Although the author has made some changes to his manuscript, some sections of the manuscript still need to be improved or extended.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Although it is stated that large sample size provides sufficient power to test the hypotheses even when some of the categories of explanatory variables have small number of subjects, the other comment about probable high correlation between some variables is not addressed. The analysis may give more precise results if some of the explanatory variables are excluded from multivariate analysis.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The author should carefully control his text for missing letters, brackets and other details.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The background section was extended. However the discussion section is still extremely short. The author should compare his results with any previous work on similar subject, and discuss possible differences or similarities.

Description of the variables in the Methods still lacks the clarity. Definition of dependent variable is not described clearly. If I understand the definition of dependent variable correctly, than the percentages should be recalculated as 25% and 22% does not give 44%.

Statements about anti-depressive programs in the conclusion section do not have any basis in the presented data.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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: No