Reviewer’s report

Title: Utilization Pattern of Traditional Chinese Medicine for Liver Cancer Patients in Taiwan

Version: 2 Date: 16 February 2012

Reviewer: Laura Weeks

Reviewer’s report:

I have reviewed the resubmission by Liao and colleagues. Comments to my prior report have been well addressed, in addition to those of the other reviewer. The manuscript is now stronger. I have a few suggestions and comments for the authors to consider, as outlined below. Further, there are several grammatical errors throughout that likely result from English being a second language for this team. The manuscript would benefit from a careful read from an editor.

Minor Essential Revisions
- Introduction, 2nd paragraph: The sentence should be changed to "The motives for the use of CAM include A PERCEIVED failure" (i.e. not "the failure")
- Results, Expenditures, 1st paragraph - in the last sentence, an error seems to have been made when calculate US$ from NT$.
- Results, 2nd paragraph, last sentence - no need to repeat exchange rate between US$ and NT$ from paragraph above.
- Abbreviation: CAM should be "Complementary and Alternative Medicine"

Discretionary Revisions
- It seems to be a very important result that TCM costs are consistently lower than WM costs. This point should be highlighted more clearly in the discussion as it has the potential to inform policy decisions. The point could be made stronger in the first paragraph of the discussion, and in the conclusion for example by editing the corresponding sentence to read..."The costs of insurance covered TCM were CONSISTENTLY lower than those of WM."
- Conclusion - I agree with the change to report "no trend" for the rate of TCM use, but it seems worthwhile here to state that it is still a consistent and stable (and substantial?) proportion of LC patients who use TCM.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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