Reviewer's report

Title: Availability and Use of Essential Medicines in China: Manufacturing, Supply, and Prescribing in Shandong and Gansu Provinces

Version: 1 Date: 20 April 2010

Reviewer: Mohamed Izham Mohamed Ibrahim

Reviewer's report:

Ref: Availability and Use of Essential Medicines in China: Manufacturing, Supply, and Prescribing in Shandong and Gansu Provinces

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? Yes
3. Are the data sound? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? The discussion is good and authors have discussed according to their findings, BUT the authors did not make conclusion according to the research objectives and research questions.
6. Are the limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes. But, need to include in the article the strengths and weaknesses of the study at the end of the Discussion section.
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? No
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes, but with considering comments made by the reviewer.

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. Check grammar in the Data Analysis section
2. Results section: "Of 107........in Shandong and Gansu provinces (plural)
3. Rewrite the conclusion based on the objectives and research questions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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