Reviewer's report

Title: The Importance of Examining Movements within the US Health Care System: Sequential Logit Modeling

Version: 1 Date: 7 May 2010

Reviewer: R Kimerling

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting article that uses a good theoretical foundation to analyze use of specialty care in the context of health care utilization and perceived need.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

• It would be nice if an operational definition for “sequential movements” could be provided in the introduction. I found this a bit confusing since there was no time element to the data, but there is reference to sequential and recursive movements throughout the manuscript. If the authors mean only that they are looking at specialty utilization in the nested context of any use (unclear, however, if this could also be the same visit as the specialty care visit) and perceived need for services, this could be more clearly stated.

• Additional information on how perceived need for specialty care and utilization of specialty care are measured is needed, since this does not appear to be a standard measure.

• The first paragraph of the discussion section indicates that perceived need was reported by the physician or respondent, but this was not clear in the methods section. Please clarify.

Minor Essential Revisions

• In the results section, OR and 95% CI should be reported

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests