Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing the context of health care utilization in Ecuador: A spatial and multilevel analysis

Version: 2 Date: 17 January 2010

Reviewer: Peter Groenewegen

Reviewer's report:

I have gone through the manuscript and read prof. Crampton's review. In my opinion the authors have adequately responded to his points. There is, however, one additional issue. Prof. Crampton indicated that statistical advice was not necessary. I don't agree on this point. Multilevel analysis is not yet standard procedure in health services research. In this particular case, I wonder if it is correct to enter 3 independent provider variables (in the model of use of health care) with only 17 units at this level. Moreover the argument to leave out variables at household level (in the model of second health problem) - that there is no significant variation at that level - does not seem valid to me.