Reviewer’s report

Title: Are prescribing doctors sensitive to the price that their patients have to pay in the Spanish National Health System?

Version: 2 Date: 8 June 2011

Reviewer: Andrew Sfekas

Reviewer’s report:

I appreciate the authors' response to my comments and those of the other reviewers. However, the main issue I raised is still unresolved and is addressed only briefly as a limitation. Specifically, the authors cannot distinguish between physicians’ price sensitivity and patients’ price sensitivity. It is completely plausible that physicians do not take prices into account when prescribing, but patients take prices into account when getting their prescriptions filled. Since the authors only observe the filled prescriptions, this would produce exactly the patterns that the authors observe. Thus, the authors' results indicate that either the physician or the patient is price-sensitive, but they can't actually distinguish how much of the price-sensitivity (if any) comes from the physician.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.