Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of health care system reform on cataract surgery and intraocular lens selection in Chongqing, China

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Reviewer: Karen Eggleston

Reviewer's report:

The author report data on the association between expanding health insurance coverage in China and cataract surgery using data from Chongqing, China, for the period 2003 to 2008. The analysis appears sound, as far as it goes.

Essential revisions

(1) The authors need to have the paper copyedited for improved English.

(2) The authors should clarify how the studied hospitals were selected for inclusion (e.g. convenience?), and it they are all government-owned.

(3) What do you mean by "sufficient representativeness"? p.5

(4) Clarify if the government fee for the service (p.6) is the same regardless of the level of the provider (clinic, or 1st, 2nd, or 3rd-level hospital).

(5) The figures say "medicare group" and non-medicare group" -- these must be clarified, presumably they refer to patients with social health insurance (urban employee, urban resident, or NCMS) and patients that are uninsured.

(6) "Non-medical insurance" (Table 3): uninsured

Discretionary revisions

(1) The paper would be improved by using a regression framework that looks simultaneously at the factors you are studying: urban/rural residence and insurance coverage. Only then could one speculate about the independent effect of either.

(2) They might consider changing the title to "the effect of health insurance system reform..." rather than health care system reform, since neither their discussion nor data speak to other aspects of China's health reforms.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'