Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessing barriers to health insurance and threats to equity in comparative perspective: The Health Insurance Access Database

Version: 2 Date: 8 March 2012

Reviewer: Jeremiah Hurley

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Researchers will find the database very useful, and so making the research community aware of the database through a correspondence article is appropriate and eminently sensible. My own view, however, is that it is most appropriate to publish such a piece when the database is up and running and can be accessed by other researchers. To publish it before the database is available will reduce the impact of communicating details of the database to the research community (Researchers would be frustrated that it was not actually available, and it would necessitate another subsequent publication announcing that it is on-line). So while I support publication, it strikes me as best to wait until the website/database is actually available to the research community.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.