Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 27 February 2012

Reviewer: Lewis E Kazis

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Major Compulsory Revisions

The limitations section should indicate the issue of missing data and variables that are not likely to yield complete information among countries included.

The validity/reliability of the data is vague. How will validity issues be analyzed, what statistical approaches will be used to demonstrate validity and reliability.

Please explain the term "qualitative sensitivity analysis."

To provide a paragraph under conclusions that indicate the greatest strengths of this new emerging data base and future applications as in empiric studies that make use of "interrupted time series designs" for example. This type of design can provide evidence of the impact of a policy regulation once it is implemented.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.