Reviewer's report

Title: Awareness and Management of Chronic Disease, Insurance Status, and Health Professional Shortage Areas in the REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS): A Cross-Sectional Study

Version: 7 Date: 9 May 2012

Reviewer: Kiarri Kershaw

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions

1) I think the first paragraph of the Discussion could be improved my stating all of your key findings (i.e., uninsured HPSA residents more likely to be aware of hypertension and hyperlipidemia than uninsured non-HPSA residents and insured HPSA residents more likely to be treated for diabetes than insured non-HPSA residents) instead of just the hypertension control finding. Only stating that finding makes it seem like it was the only key finding. Plus it led me to believe you were going to get into potential explanations, but then you didn’t actually discuss those until 3 paragraphs later.

2) I think something more informative should be said about the patterns seen in Table 2, given your decision to add the table. For example, disease control is generally lower for those who are uninsured vs. insured, and it is lowest among uninsured residents of HPSA counties.

Minor issues not for publication

The following are sentences containing typos:

1) Methods paragraph 5, last sentence, beginning with "Models for with.."
2) Discussion paragraph 6, sentence beginning with "Uninsured patients..."

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests