Reviewer's report

Title: Direct economic burden of hepatitis B virus related diseases: Evidences from Shandong, China

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Reviewer: David Hutton

Reviewer's report:

Overall, I am pleased with the improvements the authors have made to the manuscript. The use of the English language is better. And, I think the conclusions now have more policy relevance. I still have a few minor questions/comments:

Minor Essential Revisions:
I am not sure what the differences are between table 4 and table 10. They seem to have similar titles and structures, but different numbers. Are the numbers in table 10 medians? If so, the table's title should be altered to reflect that.

Discretionary Revisions:
I am not sure the Kruskal–Wallis tests in the tables add a whole lot to this analysis. It's not surprising that the cost categories are different for the different stages of HBV-related diseases. But, what I was looking for were confidence intervals on the individual costs. My original concern related to the differences between the compensated and decompensated cirrhosis costs (since the compensated cirrhosis costs looked higher). I was hoping to see "N's and standard deviations" or "confidence intervals" that would give me a sense if these differences were "real" or due to chance. The addition of Table 10 may answer my question (if table 10 is indeed median values, then it looks like the median compensated cirrhosis cost is lower than the median decompensated cirrhosis cost leading me to believe some outliers with high compensated cirrhosis costs elevated the mean costs above those for decompensated cirrhosis). I still think it would be nice to have some more information on the variation in observed costs, but it probably would be too difficult (and confusing for readers) to try to add standard deviations and confidence intervals to all the numbers in all the tables in this paper.

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'