Reviewer's report

Title: A preliminary analysis of the effect of the new rural cooperative medical system on inpatient care at a county hospital.

Version: 2 Date: 1 July 2013

Reviewer: FEI YAN

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# Generally, the question posed by the authors has been well defined.
# The methods are appropriate and well described. Some improvement needed as the following comments.
# The data are sound. Some improvement needed as the following comments.
# The manuscript adhered to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
# The discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
# The authors have clearly acknowledged any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
# The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.
# The writing acceptable.

Major revisions:
# Why just look at hospitalization and the expenditure in county hospital to analyze the effect of NCMS, people might be use township health center and above county level hospital for inpatient services. They may have more farmers entitled with NCMS were hospitalized in township health center, which with lower deductible line, lower total expenditure and may have higher reimbursement rate. While the people entitled with UEBMI as the authors would compare with might use more inpatient services in county level hospital and even above level hospital. It is better to have more description and explanation in background and discussion part.
# Better to have more discussion except the above point, eg. the NCMS enrollment rate has decreased bit from 2009.
# It is suggested to list several points and then to list evidence to discuss the points.
# It is suggested to have more description and discussion for table 5 and 6. Although the total expenditure was higher in UEBMI group than that in NCMS group, but expenditure per day in many years was higher in NCMS group.

Minor revisions:
The data used actually was the registry data from hospital or NCMS or UEBMI administration office. So it is suggested to describe more clearly in data collection part.

For figure 2, why not use two lines chart to show the expenditure per admission of NCMS and UEBMI respectively?

Have some English edition.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests.'