Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Yingyao Chen

Reviewer's report:

The paper aims to answer a very important question, NCMS has impact or not? The paper describes the national, provincial and county level NCMS development, but it doesn't balance well among different viewpoints. I have three points:

1. Why to select the sample county? Do the authors want to generalized the result to the province or whole country? Does the sample is representative? why?
2. Why just to select one county hospital? Do other county facilities, township hospitals compete with the county hospital? How much percent of NCMS funds going to the county hospital?
3. What other limitations this paper has?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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