Reviewer’s report

Title: Integration of rural and urban medical insurance schemes in China: an empirical research

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Reviewer: Zhongliang Zhou

Reviewer’s report:

Based on an empirical study, this paper tried to answer the question like how to integrate the three basic health insurance systems in China. This is a very important topic in China now. The paper however can be further improved and please refer to the comments below:

• Major Compulsory Revisions

1# Compare with the narration and discussion, the qualitative analysis in the article is weak. For example, the paper talked about the factors (like income, age, gender, education level, family income level) which influence the will towards URBMI and NRCMS integration in the empirical study. It will be better if the paper employ the regression model to do the analysis.

2# The status quo of health insurance systems in Changshu, Shenyang, Foshan city and Changchun city are not clear. It seems that there are different health insurance modes in the four cities. It’s important to address this issue specifically in the beginning of the empirical research, and answer the question like why the cases in the four cities were selected in the study.

3# It will be great if the discussion and the policy recommendation after the empirical study focus more on the results of the empirical analysis. In other words, the connection between the empirical analysis and the following discussion should be enhanced.

4# The sampling strategy should be mentioned and the demographic variable of the individuals, such as gender, age, etc., should be described in the empirical study.

5# Are there any limitations in this study? If the answer is yes, limitations should be addressed in the article.

• Minor Essential Revisions

1# In order to make the figures more clear, the horizontal axis and the vertical axis, as well as the units should be added in each figure.

2# The data from 2009 in page 8 should be updated. Such as “And the total government subsidies for NRCMS enrollees were 80 RMB per farmer in 2009, of which central and local government each contributed 40 RMB. Meanwhile, individual contributions rose to 20 RMB per enrollee such that the average financing level increased to 100 RMB per enrollee in 2009 [15]”.
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.