Reviewer's report

Title: Effective access to health care in Mexico

Version: 2 Date: 23 December 2013

Reviewer: Martin C Gulliford

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper that discusses a measure of access to health care, based on financial protection, and goes on to present empirical data for the distribution of the measure and changes over time in Mexico.

1. Mexico has become well known as a case study in health policy implementation but this paper does not cite several of the well know reports by other authors.

2. The Methods and Results sections are rather brief. More needs to be presented concerning the survey data that were the source of material for analysis. What was the sample size? What were the response rates?

3. More detail is needed on the construction of the access measure. What were the survey items that contributed to the measure - giving the exact wording. How did these items contribute to estimation of the measure?

4. It is not clear whether the data presented have been standardised for age and sex.

5. The title could be more discursive. The term 'effective access' might be given in inverted commas when it is introduced. This is evidently a very simplistic measure of access. For example, access may not be 'all or none' people may have access for some kinds of services but not others; some individuals may be more than happy to pay for private services even when public services are accessible etc The focus here is mainly on coverage of financial protection and the authors may like to explain why they generally avoid use of the word coverage - which has been proposed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests