Reviewer's report

Title: Claims, Liabilities, Injuries and Compensation Payments of Medical Malpractice Litigation Cases in China from 1998 to 2011

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Reviewer: Anneli Milen

Reviewer's report:

The article has clearly merits as it for the first study in China on patient safety issues in a larger scale. However, there are several major compulsory revisions needed.

1. The English language is in several parts so unclear or faulty that the text is incomprehensible (reader is not able understand what do you mean). Pls do a thorough language check.

2. Several of the methods need to be included in the article: for example: It is not clear if this is a sample and if it is, how the sampling was made. Also, criteria for coding (classifying) of the data needs to be reported as well: if the researchers did it or if it was in the data base already and how reliability was taken into account.

3. In the Background (and more in Discussion) you could include the recent phenomenon in China on increase in conflicts between patients and doctors/hospitals (eg extensively discussed in Liebman 2013). In other words, put this issue into a wider context in China of the change in health system. Also, compare this to the results in Italy where there is no out-of-pocket payments by patients and yet a huge amount of claims.

4. The article would benefit from brief definitions of key terms as they may not be known to many readers. These could be added easily in paranthesis.

5. Pls note the difference between a significant difference and a statistically significant difference.

6. The tables are very good! However, in the results part it is difficult to understand how the % has been counted; especially in the abstract.

7. Abstract: needs a lot of work as it is incomprehensible now. Also, for the Background it is not sufficient to say that there has been no studies or no data (there has been the data base). Put the theme in a wider context as that would be really interesting.

8. The conclusion on unfair compensations is not clearly supported by the results.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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