Reviewer's report

**Title:** Costs and Repeat Rates Associated with Colonoscopy Observed Medical Claims for Commercial and Medicare Populations

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 13 October 2013

**Reviewer:** Yong-Fang Kuo

**Reviewer's report:**

1. The codes (CPT, ICD-9 procedures, and HCPCS) used to identify colonoscopy were not completed. Authors should extensively review previous published papers used Medicare claims. Couples of them were listed below.


Gupta, Samir; Tong, Liyue; Anderson, Paula; et al. Measurement of Colorectal Cancer Test Use With Medical Claims Data in a Safety-Net Health System. AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES. 2013; 345(2);99-103.


The third one above showed the agreement between using claim data and EMR to identify colonoscopy.

The fourth one above identified the issues in distinguishing screening and diagnostic colonoscopy in claims data.

2. The authors didn't provide detail information on how the study cohorts were selected. What were the age ranges? What were the continuous enrollment criteria? In commercial insurance data, less than 1/3 of population had continuous enrollment up to four years which was required in the current study.

3. Since only about 60% of colonoscopy had the prescription for bowel preparation in the 30 days before colonoscopy, this could also be related to the continuous enrollment criteria in selecting study cohort.

4. It will be interesting to show how the cost varied by patient characteristics (ex: age, comorbidity, regions and type of insurance in commercial product).

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.