Reviewer’s report

Title: Availability and structure of primary medical care services and population health and health care indicators in England

Version: 2 Date: 31 March 2004

Reviewer: Stephen Morris

Reviewer’s report:

In my review of the previous draft I raised five issues that should be addressed, and only three have been seriously considered in this draft. The outstanding issues are:

1. Endogeneity of health and GP supply
2. Impact of secondary care confounding the impact of GP supply

It is unclear why the authors have not addressed these issues explicitly rather than simply stating them as limitations. Statistical methods do exist to deal with endogeneity bias (e.g., 2SLS), as the authors acknowledge. Also, there are hospital supply data which could be used to control for the confounding effects of secondary care on the impact of GP supply on health.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

None