Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of ambulatory care utilization in Taiwan

Version: 2 Date: 29 March 2006

Reviewer: Arul Earnest

Reviewer's report:

General Comments

The authors have decided to change the focus of the study and keep it entirely descriptive in terms of exploring ambulatory care utilization in Taiwan. They have found that about a quarter of patients have visited the same speciality at other healthcare facilities. This raises the possibility of the spread of an infectious disease across institutions, in the absence of control measures, during an outbreak. It also has implications for contact-tracing in the event of an outbreak. I encourage the authors to undertake further research to identify how this behaviour can contribute to the spread of infectious disease, possibly drawing from their experience during the recent SARS outbreak in 2003.

What next?: Accept without revision

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests