Reviewer's report

Title: Costs of hospital care for hypertension in an insured population without an outpatient medicines benefit: an observational study in the Philippines

Version: 1 Date: 21 April 2008

Reviewer: Koshi Nakamura

Reviewer's report:

The authors examined whether hypertension has a large impact on the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) that is only for inpatient medical services. The present study demonstrated that hypertension (and its sequelae) was a burden of hospitalization medical expenditures in detail. The findings of the present study are of importance.

However, PhilHealth does not cover outpatient medical services. This is a sad limitation, because I think that long-term blood pressure control with medication in outpatient also has a negligible impact on medical economics despite its definite need for preventing cardiovascular disease. Thus, I don't think that the authors can conclude that “an outpatient medicines benefit may be one cost-effective policy option for PhilHealth” directly from the results of the present study. In addition, I would suggest that the authors shorten the Background and Discussion sections, removing statements that are not directly associated with the aim and results of the present study, respectively.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests'