Reviewer's report

Title: Utilization Patterns of Chinese medicine and Western medicine under the National Health Insurance Program in Taiwan, a population-based study from 1997 to 2003

Version: 2 Date: 22 February 2008

Reviewer: Lisa Lix

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Line 37 â## It is incorrect to call this a generalized estimating equation method. In fact, a logistic regression model was used to analyze the data. Generalized estimating equations were used to account for correlation among the repeated measurements.

Line 99 â## a word appears to be missing between the words "covered" and "diagnosis".

Line 133 â## the authors have inadvertently included the < 8 years age group in their listing of age categories in the text, as well as in Table 2. How can the < 8 years age group be the reference in the logistic model if this group was excluded from the analysis?

Line 232 â## It is incorrect to call the regression model a GEE model. A logistic regression model was used to analyze the data. Generalized estimating equations were used to account for correlation among the repeated measurements.

Line 233 â## the phrase â##over timeâ## should be inserted after â##CM and WMâ##.

Line 234 â## the phrase â##to useâ## should be deleted.

Line 381 â## the reference list is inconsistent because for some journal article citations the title is in boldface font, while for other journal article citations the title is not in boldface font. Please ensure a common citation format is used throughout the reference list.

Table 4 â## use ICD-9-CM instead of ICD to describe the primary indication. Percentages in this table should be rounded to one decimal place.

Discretionary Revisions

I do not find it informative to report the p-values associated with the odds ratios. I would recommend deleting these from the text and tables.
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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.