Reviewer's report

Title: On the validity of area-based income measures to proxy household income

Version: 1 Date: 6 February 2008

Reviewer: Donald G Klepser

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a well conducted study looking at an issue important to health policy researchers. The study makes a small, but meaningful, contribution to field.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In the third sentence of the third paragraph in the Results section, the authors state that kappa never exceeds 0.05 and that the weighted kappa never exceeds 0.31. This is inconsistent with Table 3, where kappa always exceeds 0.05 and the weighted kappa always exceeds 0.31. The authors should revise so that the text is consistent with the table.

Discretionary Revisions
2. In the data section, the authors refer to both a BC PharmaCare and a BC PharmaNet. It is not clear if these are the same program.

3. The authors present all income data as deciles. It is likely of interest to readers to know that actual ranges of those deciles.

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.