Reviewer’s report

Title: Primary care physician supply and other key determinants of health care utilisation: The case of Switzerland

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2007

Reviewer: Gert P. Westert

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General
It is not clear what the paper adds to the existing (Swiss [14]) literature. In my opinion (given the existing literature on the topic) the paper is too descriptive. It is known (by now) that supply drives demand.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The authors need to expand/ discuss (in) the paper the following points:
- real patient need variables are lacking in the model; the proxies (Table 2) at PCSA are too coarse/ rough
- consultations with hospital doctors (probably vary accross Swiss areas/PCSAs) could cause substitution effects are not taken into account/ discussed.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Reject because too small an advance to publish

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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