Reviewer's report

Title: Factors related to treatment intensity in Swiss primary care

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Reviewer: Peter P Groenewegen

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In my view they have done a good job in reworking their paper along the lines suggested by Barbara Starfield.

The review by RA Cooper was less to the point (and misread the paper at some points, e.g. nothing is said about treatment intensity by specialists, as suggested under point 2 of his review).

In my view the strongest point is the fact that taking all other variables into account, the smaller practices produce more consultations than the larger practices (although these differences are small).

A few issues could have been addressed better:

- the demand indicators could have been better chosen (mortality isn't a very good indicator for demand for PCP)
- the multilevel model could have been better argued (what about a level above the HSAs, e.g. the Cantons)
- it would have been advisable to have a statistician look at the paper (e.g. an econometrist with an interest in SID).

But all in all I rather endorse Barbara Starfield's evaluation of the paper than Richard Cooper's.