Reviewer's report

Title: Current situation of village doctors in China

Version: 4 Date: 7 December 2012

Reviewer: Victoria Fan

Reviewer's report:

Overall, this is a major improvement from the first submission -- with considerably more context and much better presentation of methods. The results are fairly dry, which is not surprisingly given that the study is only a baseline study.

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   Yes.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   Yes.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   Yes.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   For the most part this is true, although at times reporting is done somewhat awkwardly.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   No, the title needs to be changed (see comment below).

7. Is the writing acceptable?
   Yes, but it is still not great. It would benefit from a thorough copy-edit.

Minor essential revisions

In the title, please insert “in four counties” after “village doctors” and before “in China”.

In abstract, delete “(including developed, developing, and underdeveloped counties) in China”

In the clause “which leads the official statistics have no comprehensive information about village doctor that may be why village doctors were excluded by the recently studied on China’s health workforce”, insert the word “to” after
“statistics” and before “have”; change “village doctor that may be” to “village doctors, and that may be”

In the sentence “they have an indispensable impact on China’s healthcare system and the health of rural residents”, insert “are likely to” after “they” and before “have an”

In the sentence “China has its own organization-based annual survey, but it primarily focuses on townships and above, and most of the questionnaire was objective. A rather large shortcoming of the annual survey is the lack of individual data regarding rural healthcare workers.” The authors should cite this. Without citing, I currently do not believe this statement.

In the sentence “If the questions were incomplete or missed, a telephone interview was supplemented”, delete the word “was” and insert the word “the main mode of interviewing”

The authors should note how often telephone interviews were conducted.

Table 2. It is very unclear how there can be 95% confidence intervals since the denominator N is the census of all village doctors in the county! The authors should delete the 95% CI in Table 2.

Table 4 needs a better title.

The paper needs a thorough copy-editing.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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:**

No competing interests.