Reviewer's report

Title: Current situation of village doctors in China

Version: 4 Date: 25 November 2012

Reviewer: Vivian Lin

Reviewer's report:

Compulsory revision:

While the authors amended the title in line with feedback from one of the reviewers, the title is quite inappropriate for the content of the article. The paper describe the methodology and baseline for a new longitudinal study. It does not describe current situation of village doctors in China, in either a sufficiently comprehensive nor representative fashion. The title needs to be changed.

The rationale for choosing the counties and the procedures for selecting these counties have not been described. They are only described as being geographically and socioeconomically different, reflecting the common categories used in China. Was it a convenice sample based on who the authors knew? where else might have been considered? are there historical elements of health system development in these counties that should be noted?

The conclusion is a very broad. The baseline findings should be briefly summarized, and the implications for policy and reform should be flagged. How data collection and analysis will be undertaken in the future would also be usefully described, so that the readers know how to follow this piece of work.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests