Reviewer’s report

Title: Trend of disparity between coastland and inland in medical expenditure burden for rural inpatients with malignant tumor in southeast of China from 2007 to 2016

Version: 0 Date: 15 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Rei Goto

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for an opportunity to review this paper.

This manuscript investigated inpatient health care costs based on hospital administrative data and compared them between coastland and inland in Fujian Province of which population is around 40 million.

From the title, the economic burden of cancers is to be studied. This concept is broader than what is covered by this manuscript. Economic burden of disease has three components, health expenditures, productivity losses, and foregone capital formation. (see https://www.who.int/choice/publications/d_economic_impact_guide.pdf?ua=1 ) Thus, inpatient cost is only a part of economic burden.

This manuscript is rather descriptive and analytic parts will be needed to be published in an international journal like BMC Cancer. There are many possible factors affecting healthcare cost, but only a small part is considered here. This paper used the data for NRCM enrollees, but is there any concerns about representativeness for whole population? Are there any differences of CPI, regional income between two areas? Are there any policy changes affecting the accesses to outpatient care and pharmaceuticals which are closely related to inpatient care? What determines the reimbursement ratio? If negotiations between patients and physicians matter, the balance of bargaining power between these two is very important.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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