Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of socioeconomic status and medical conditions on health and healthcare utilization among ageing Ghanaians

Version: 4  Date: 4 February 2015

Reviewer: Cathy Gong

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

(1) Lines 20-28 on page 9 are same as the lines of 3-11. You might want to delete lines 3-11.

(2) Lines 20-28 on page 9 are same as the lines of 3-11. You might want to delete lines 3-11.

(3) It was mentioned on page 10 lines 3-4 that “Firstly, aged Ghanaians experience significantly poorer self-rated health (when marital status as a predisposing factor was controlled for as in model 1). However, the age and age square items are not significant in all the Tables. Could you please check?

(4) It was mentioned on page 10 lines 4-5 that “After controlling for chronic illness, the effect of diabetes, angina and visual impairment, had statistically significant influence on self-rated health (model 2)”. However, in Table 2 model 2, stroke . Could you please check?

(5) It was mentioned on page 10 lines 13-20 that In Table 2, upon the inclusion of education and well-being to the model, self-rated health was greatly influenced by education as an independent factor. Also, after controlling for marital status as predisposing factor, older Ghanaians experienced significantly poorer functional limitation. Upon inclusion of chronic conditions and functioning assessment into the model, hypertension, arthritis, stroke and visual impairment contributed massively to the difficulty in mobility (moving around) by the older persons. The second and third income quintiles as well as the well-being of older persons remained significant associated (model 3) self-rated health. Could you please check the consistence as the results here are not consistent to the results in either Table 2 or Table 3 and Education (illiteracy) is not significant in either of the two tables.

(6) It was mentioned on page 10 lines 13-20 that Table 4 indicates that the probability of hospitalization is significantly higher among aged Ghanaians. Socioeconomic status contributed significantly to healthcare (probably because financially sound Ghanaians might have improved financial access to care). Could you please check the consistence as the age and age square term are not significant in Table 4

(7) You might want to change table titles from “TABLE I- Table IV” to “Table 1-Table 4” to make sure their consistence with main text.
**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.