Reviewer’s report

Title: Inappropriate Admissions to Township Hospitals under the New Rural Cooperative Medical System of China: a Cross-sectional Study

Version: 1 Date: 29 August 2014

Reviewer: Xiaohong Li

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper and the analysis of inappropriate admissions is important information for improving the New Rural Cooperative Medical System. I am happy to recommend a publication of this manuscript if the authors consider the following comments.

1. Please make the title more specific. What are the main objectives of the paper? Are the main objectives the criteria for inappropriate admissions, the rate of inappropriate admissions, or the determinants?

2. The introductory part should be improved, eg. What are the determinants of inappropriate admissions according to the existing studies? What are the differences between the existing studies on inappropriate admissions of NRCMS and this paper? In the fourth paragraph, are there any references for the “three reasons”? The introductory doesn’t state clearly what are the main objectives# What is the assumption#

3. In the method, what are the revisions of the international AEP? The reasons for revision? Please list the results of inappropriate admissions by a crosstab using the two methods, AEP and implicit criteria, because the establishment of the new AEP criteria is an important part of the paper. Are all the patients covered by NRCMS? In the data source of the method, although the authors stated that they collect sociological characteristics, inpatient admission information, and other patient data, they should give more detailed information.

4. Please provide flow-diagram of sample design. How do you calculate the sample size?

5. Does the medical record cover all the items in the international AEP?

6. Please list the two-level variables. How do you choose the independent variables? How about the multi-collinearity in the model?

7. In the second paragraph in the part of the AEP criteria in the result, both the Cronbach coefficient and kappa coefficient are 0.729, please check.

8. The two sentences are confusing. There is contradiction.

(1) In the second paragraph in the part of the AEP criteria in the result. “Results show that the ultimate AEP criterion was consistent with the current status of inpatients in Chinese rural township hospitals to a degree of 86.8%. Thus, the experts found that the criteria can cover more than 80% of the township hospital
inpatients.”

(2) In the first paragraph in 3.3, “A total of 26.5% of the records indicated inappropriate admissions”

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests