Reviewer’s report

Title: Measurement and explanation of socioeconomic inequality in catastrophic health care expenditure: evidence from the rural areas of Shaanxi Province

Version: 6 Date: 29 January 2015

Reviewer: Tin Tin TTS Su

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The quality of the manuscript is improved substantially. However, there are still some issues in the manuscript.

Major compulsory revision

353 children below 5 years old in both years [40]. One of the potential reasons is that expanded

354 program on immunization for children promoted in Shaanxi Province has successfully

355 prevented and controlled outbreak……

Comment: Please provide the evidence that there is a decreasing trend of infectious disease among under five children

356 may make household face large health expenditures. A small low-income household with

357 more inpatient treatments, having elderly member(s), lack of health insurance and illiteracy

358 of the household head, had the highest risk for incurring CHE

Comment: it seems it is a composite variable “small low-income household with more inpatient treatment”

It should be written as “small family, low income households, having more inpatient treatment, ……

In addition, low income households have risk for facing CHE for 2008 is correct. However, in 2013, even households belong to richer quintiles such as 4th and 3rd are having CHE then how the authors concluded low-income households faced CHE.

403 economic status in analyses. Fourthly, as a retrospective study, there was likely to be recall

404 bias.

Comment: The study has a recall bias, not because of retrospective study design (actually it is not retrospective, cross sectional) because of long recall period (one year). It would be difficult for the respondents recall illness, health care
utilization and expenditure.
Minor essential revision
Table 1
Comment: Need total number of households in the heading of last and second last column.