Reviewer’s report

Title: Non-use of health care service among empty-nest elderly in Shandong, China: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 19 April 2015

Reviewer: Giorgio Liguori

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript focuses on the use of healthcare services among empty-nest seniors, which represents a category not many investigated and a great concern especially in China. Therefore, it appears original even with the limitations of a cross-sectional study. Findings of the study showed inequalities in the elderly population and authors suggest some interventions to reduce them. Authors considered many variables and they use good statistical procedures to analyze them. In my opinion the manuscript is well written, clear and suitable for publication after some minor revisions.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract. In my opinion the definition of empty-nest syndrome should be summarized in this section.

Introduction. Page 5, line 99-100: a reference should be indicated for these statements.

Methods. Empty-nesters should be more clearly defined also in this section.

Discussion. Page 10, lines 240-241: it could be better do not repeat data that were reported in methods.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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