Reviewer's report

Title: Predicting Inpatient Hospital Payments in the United States: A Retrospective Analysis

Version: 4  Date: 21 July 2015

Reviewer: Alexis Pozen

Reviewer's report:

The authors made all major and minor revisions that I suggested in my first review, and the revised manuscript is improved, particularly the nuanced used of "payment" versus "price," (a nice fix for this issue) and the expanded suggestion of applications beyond cost-shifting. Cost-shifting will clearly get lots of attention as the ACA moves along and so the authors’ main motivations are well-founded. Limitations of the data and the method are well-described.

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.