Reviewer’s report

Title: The impacts of implementation of National Essential Medicines Policies on primary healthcare institutions: A cross-sectional study in China

Version: 0 Date: 02 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Hans V Hogerzeil

Reviewer's report:

General remarks: In general, good idea to study the impact of the new policies. Yet the study was done in 2010 - long ago, and only one year after introduction of the reforms. It is not clear why it took so long to get the data published. 7/26: It is not a proper pre-post controlled study; but post-only. So it is not certain that there were no differences between the treatment group and the control group from the start. The authors mention this as a limitation; it is a strong limitation of the findings. The data as they stand now can very well serve as a baseline for further studies - a follow-up study now would be very interesting. Then a true pre-post controlled study could be presented.

Specific comment:
Page 7/ line 42: these results are not significant it seems; rural has no difference at all.
7/50: again, rural no difference. So the text should be clearer in recognizing that there has been very little change in the rural areas; and try to find an explanation for this finding.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

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