Author’s response to reviews

Title: Improving equity in health care financing in China during the progression towards Universal Health Coverage

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Response to Reviewers’ Comments

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The authors would like to sincerely thank the reviewer for his or her time and effort taken to comment on our manuscript. We have carefully addressed the reviewer’s comments, queries and suggestions and we believe that the manuscript has been greatly improved.

There is one point remaining to be clarified: when a tax is proportional (eg 10% of the income/consumption), KI=0. Please check your calculations.

Answer: Thank you for asking for this clarification. When a tax is proportional, for example, the tax equals to 10% of income/consumption, it means that the value of concentration index (CI) of the tax equals to the value of Gini coefficient of income/consumption. Actually, when the tax is a fixed proportion of income/consumption (this is why we call the tax is proportional to income/consumption), the CI of the tax equals to Gini coefficient.

Kakwani index (KI), which is the difference between CI and Gini, equals to 0 when the values of CI and Gini coefficient are the same.
The method of progressivity in this manuscript is recommended by World Bank publication “Analyzing Health Equity Using Household Survey Data: A Guide to Techniques and Their Implementation” (Page 193), which is a comprehensive and up-to-date technical note pertaining to the progressivity analysis. It stated in this page that “In the case of proportionality, the concentration lies on top of the Lorenz curve and the index is zero.”
