Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of inappropriate admissions of children to county hospitals: A cross-sectional study from rural China

Version: 0 Date: 11 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Hung-Hui Chen

Reviewer’s report:

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BMC Health Services Research

Manuscript Number: BHSR-D-18-01694

Manuscript Title: Determinants of Inappropriate Admissions of Children to County Hospitals: A Cross-Sectional Study from Rural China

The reviewer's comments:

The authors investigated the level of children's inappropriate admissions to county hospitals in rural China and identified the related factors of children's inappropriate admissions. The study objectives and findings are interesting. However, I still have some curiosity and propose some questions regarding your research. Some questions are noted. Overall, I recommend that this manuscript requires major revision before resubmission.

1. Line 158-169 "records appropriateness evaluation": Could you give more details regarding two judges, criteria, or checklist……? Since the final outcome of this research highly depends on the opinions of those two professional judges, authors should prove the confidence and background of those two judges as well as the process of the judgement, e.g. criteria or checklist. Such information is essential and necessary to support the correction of the results in this study and help convince readers.

2. Line 88-89 mentioned "50.2% of children in rural China chose to be treated in county hospitals, whereas only 7.3% chose to be treated in township hospital." Do you have the data of urban China to compare and further support the importance of the issue in rural China? Could you give a precise definition of "rural China”? How does distinguish the rural and urban? Authors mentioned the economic condition is the criterion without giving any detail.
3. The characteristics of physicians and hospitals may relate to inappropriate admission. Could you have other analyses about characteristics of medical institutions and doctors, as well as examination of the relationships between these variables and inappropriate admission? Moreover, I have curiosity about the related factors of inappropriate admission when adjusting the characteristics of physicians and hospitals.

**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.

Unable to assess

**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 am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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