

Reviewer's report

Title: Referring heroin users from compulsory detoxification centers to community methadone maintenance treatment: a comparison of three models

Version: 1 **Date:** 11 May 2013

Reviewer: Na He

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer's comments on BMC Public Health Manuscript:

By using a quasi-experimental study design, the present study examined effectiveness of different strategies in referring drug users from detoxification centers (DC) to methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) programs in a prefecture with high HIV prevalence among drug users in China. However, this manuscript can be improved by some major and minor revisions. This study was innovative in exploring the three interventions for MMT referral and was important and timely for that MMT program is widely available in China with referral and adherence to the program yet to be successful.

I only have some minor concerns on the manuscript:

Major compulsory revisions:

No.

Minor essential revisions:

- (1). Line 5, 1st paragraph on Page 10, should be 71.0% in the paretis.
- (2). Table 2, the variable "History of heroin use (years)" should be categorized to be mutually exclusive, i.e., 5 years would be within two categories.
- (3). As shown in 1st paragraph on Page 10, a higher proportion (71.0%) of participants in model 2 were willing to participate in MMT program at the baseline. Given that a higher proportion (25.8%) of participants in model 2 were successfully referred to MMT, it might be deserved to carefully examine reasons for high acceptance of MMT at the baseline, and examine and discuss the impact of the high acceptance on the effectiveness of model 2, i.e., high referral rate of MMT thereafter in model 2.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests