Author's response to reviews

Title: The development of a combined mathematical model to forecast the incidence of hepatitis E in Shanghai, China

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: MS. 1435046379905102 “Combined Mathematical Model in predicting incidence of hepatitis E using 2000-2012 morbidity data from Shanghai, China”

Dear Philippa Harris:

We appreciate your advice and have addressed them as below in italics and marked any changes highlighted with the color of red.

Editorial Revisions:

In the method section: In the sentence "The Box-Jenkins approach was applied to seasonal ARIMA (p,d,q)×(P,D,Q)n modeling of time series data" : p, d, q, P, D, Q and n should be defined.

Reponses: We have added the detailed information of p, d, q, P, D, Q and n in the Methods section.

In the result section, second sentence: "The annual morbidity declined to 2.307 per 100,000 population in 2012 and then fluctuated 2.307 to 4.240 per 100,000 population (Table 1)" the word "morbidity" should be replaced by "the incidence rate".

Reponses: We have revised “The annual morbidity” to “The annual incidence rate”.

In the result section the sentence "Twelve months of morbidity data from January 2012 to December 2012 were employed to validate the model." is repeated several time in different paragraph. This sentence is useless since this has been said in the method section that those data would be use for validation purpose. Instead the author should give directly the result of the comparison of forecasted and observed incidence.
Reponses: We have deleted the repeated sentences of "Twelve months of morbidity data from January 2012 to December 2012 were employed to validate the model."

In the result section, the mean error rate (MER) was used to explain the comparison of forecasted and observed values between single ARIMA and ARIMA-BPNN combined models in 2012. Detailed information was also shown in Figure 2.

We hope that we have addressed all comments to your satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,

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