Reviewer’s report

Title: Anemia status, hemoglobin concentration and outcome after acute stroke: a cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 17 February 2010

Reviewer: XinQi Dong

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, the manuscript has made marginal improvement, but however does not adequately address the primary concerns for the methodological approach of this manuscript, which makes it extremely difficult to interpret the results in meaningful way. I will give the authors another chance to address these fully.

Major compulsory Revision:

1. My primary concerns remains as the justification of the model. Cox vs. logistic regression, rationale was not given and repeating one model in the result as a side test is insufficient. Author needs to justify this reasoning, as to why the primary models did not use cox model, and details about model assumption should be given to provide confidence in the model and results. Furthermore, clarity on the methodological approach is critical to the apriori hypotheses testing.

2. It was also not clear in the results section, which findings were from the cox regression and which ones were from logistic regression. The rationale for using both models should be justified.

3. Authors did not address the points on potential confounders and adequate adjustment to consider these factors in the relationship between anemia/Hb and outcomes. I am concerned that stating as a limitation is not sufficient. Does the data set possess the assessment of any of these factors to be considered in the present analyses?