Author's response to reviews

Title: Actuarial Survival of a Large Canadian Cohort of Preterm Infants

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Author's response to reviews:

September 4, 2005

The Editor,
BMC Pediatrics

Dear Sir/Ms:

Enclosed is our manuscript entitled "Actuarial Survival of a Large Canadian Cohort of Preterm Infants."

We thank the reviewers for their helpful comments and have now revised the manuscript and are re-submitting it to BMC Pediatrics for review, together with an itemized response to the reviewers' comments:

Reviewer: Maureen Hack

1. The abstract has been amended to include CI in the brackets

2. We have used Arbuckle's definitions for small-for-gestational age to be consistent with our previous reports. Changing to Kramer's definitions does not materially change the results.

3. We have added the suggested changes about deaths beyond 60 days of life to the discussion on page 13, para 1, last 2 sentences.

4. We respectfully disagree with the reviewer. The relevant population for the clinician in the NICU includes all admissions to the NICU, irrespective of whether they are inborn or outborn. Therefore, we strongly feel that all admissions should be included in the analysis.

5. The asterisks have been inserted into Figures 3 and 4.
6. The reference to "compare favourably" with other studies had already been deleted from this version of the manuscript and does not appear anywhere in the text.

7. We feel that the issue about informing parents has been sufficiently discussed under the Discussion section on page 12, para 2. How the information should be used to inform parents depends on the context of the discussion and clinicians are best able to decide that individually.

Please accept this revised manuscript and we look forward to any further comments from the reviewers.

Sincerely,

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