Author's response to reviews

Title: Chronic disease knowledge and its determinants among chronically ill adults in rural areas of Shanxi Province in China: a cross-sectional study

Authors:

Miaomiao Tian (shuishuipp@163.com)
Yingchun Chen (chenyingchun@mail.hust.edu.cn)
Rui Zhao (zhaoruibusb@126.com)
Li Chen (chenli0401@163.com)
Xi Chen (zuojiang.wu@163.com)
Da Feng (fdnunu@163.com)
Zhanchun Feng (zcfeng@mails.tjmu.edu.cn)

Version: 5 Date: 2 December 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:
The manuscript “Chronic disease knowledge and its major determinants among chronically ill adults in rural area of Shanxi province in China: a cross-sectional study” has been revised in accordance with the reviewer’s comments and submitted for your consideration for publication. And the manuscript has been done many language corrections by a native English speaking colleague. An itemized response to reviewer’s comments is attached. The co-authors look forward to receiving your decision on the paper’s suitability for publication in your journal.

Correspondence should be directed to Professor Zhanchun Feng at the following address, phone and e-mail:

Address: School of Medicine and Health Management, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, 13 Hang Kong Road, China
Tel.: +86 27 83692731
Fax: +86 27 83692996
E-mail: zcfeng@mails.tjmu.edu.cn

Thank you for your help to our paper processing.

Yours faithful,
Miaomiao Tian

The itemized response to reviewer’s comments is appended.
Chronic disease knowledge and its determinants among chronically ill adults in rural area of Shanxi province in China: a cross-sectional study

Response to Reviewer’s detailed comments

Thank you for your instructive advice about our manuscript. The following summarizes the revisions made to the paper based on your suggestions.

1. The organization of the background section: the importance of highlighting the role of health knowledge improvement in the prevention and control of CDs is acknowledged. The relevant section has been reorganized and a statement has been added to describe the relationship between disease prevention and relevant health knowledge. A further three references (2, 5 and 6) have been added to underpin this description.

2. Your recommendation about the first hypothesis has been accepted. We have changed the research question to “How is CD knowledge distributed among chronically ill rural residents?”. This has been accompanied by relevant of corresponding statements in ‘results’ section.

3. The Method section has been modified to provide details of how the 30 chronically ill adults were selected using the health records.

4. The statement regarding private practitioner services has been modified to incorporate two main reasons why private village clinics do not offer public health services to rural residents. First is the lack of relevant professional training and equipment available to these practitioners and the impact this has on the overall quality of health services they provide. The second is the lack of funding from the government discouraged them from paying adequate attention to public health services, such as health education and promotion. An additional reference has been added to this part of the paper (the reference 30).

5. It is accepted that the research design would have been strengthened if it compared the sample subjects with a control group. However, this research
emphasized the relationship between health knowledge of chronically ill adults and the rural health institutions. And the statement of question 1 of this manuscript has been changed, which could be answered by the cross-sectional survey.

At last, I want to thank you sincerely for your suggestions.