Reviewer’s report

Title: Chronic disease knowledge and its major impact factors among chronically ill adults in rural area of Shanxi province in China: a cross-sectional study

Version: 4 Date: 12 November 2011

Reviewer: Zhaorui Liu

Reviewer’s report:

The article has been significantly improved, but there are still some issues need to be considered

1. I suggest the author re-organise the content of the background section and highlight the importance of the knowledge improvement to the prevention and control of chronic disorders (CDs). The section could be started from the prevalence and public health impact of CD, followed by the relationship between disease prevention and the improvement of the knowledge. After that, the author can describe the rural and urban difference and to explain why the study was carried our in rural area and in Shanxi province.

2. As I mentioned in my previous comments, the first hypothesis could be answered by a cross-sectional study. No evidence can be showed from a cross sectional to see if the residents had adequate or inadequate knowledge. However, the cross sectional study do describe the distribution of the knowledge among the samples. May I suggest the author change their statement to “What are the distribution characteristics of chronic disease knowledge among rural chronically ill residents?”?

3. Please give more details to explain how the 30 chronically ill adults were selected from the health records.

4. I still believe the statement of “private clinics pay more attention to economic benefits” in the paper is not appropriate. I think the major problem in private clinic is lack of professional training, which will influence the quality of the services.

5. In the limitation section, the study design is determined by the objectives of the study. Please explain more why an experimental design have more scientifically rigorous for your study.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.