Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Determinants of health literacy and health behavior: a pathway model

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 31 December 2012

**Reviewer:** Yan Guo

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is an important research measuring health literacy in a relatively large sample of individuals in China. The paper aims to validate an individual-level model of health literacy. Its premise of study is reasonably developed, and the main strength of this paper mainly comes from the using of path analysis, which is quite reasonable, and also its relatively large sample that ensures diversity. Accordingly, its descriptive results would help to interpret more complex inferential statistics.

The methodology is appropriate and well described: the instrument includes five different subscales which vividly describe the whole picture of health literacy, and the sample size is appropriate in representing the whole China geographically. The date is sound. General speaking, the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The discussion summarizes the basic results; meanwhile the description of the relationship between health literacy and behavior is clear. Also, the limitations of the work are clearly stated.

There are small weaknesses that need to be improved:

1. **Title:**
   This study has chosen the respiratory disease as target of health literacy. Therefore, the title of this paper needs to show this characteristic component.
2. **Discussion:**
   The study finds: “there was no significant difference between genders and ethnic groups when it came to measurements of health literacy.” In discussion, it is expected to explain why there is no difference, because usually there is difference existed.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'