Reviewer’s report

Title: Health-related quality of life and long-term care needs among elderly subjects living alone: A cross-sectional study in rural areas of Shaanxi Province, China

Version: 3 Date: 4 February 2013

Reviewer: Xiaomei Li

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Comments for article of BMC public health

1. Edit the entire paper for correct English language and grammar.
2. In the ‘Subjects’ section, which region does the Ansai, Gaoling and Shiquan represent respectively? Why and how these three areas were selected?
3. How the items of ‘Care requirements’ were developed?
4. What about reliability and validity of the questionnaire regarding ‘Long-term care needs’? Please provide the corresponding reference.
5. In ‘Quality control’ section, the author mentioned that it was a face-to-face field survey, and trained assistants helped each participant complete the questionnaire. However, in the ‘Subjects’ section, the author recruited relatives or neighbors of the participant with limited autonomy as the subjects. Is there any contradiction between these two points? How did the author control the quality of the collected information from the participants themselves and relatives or neighbors of the participant with limited autonomy? Additionally, based on the informed consent and face-to-face field survey, how did the author define ‘Questionnaires that were less than 80% complete’?
6. Were there common influencing factors for both HROoL and long-term care needs? Please give more detailed information.