Author's response to reviews

Title: Timeliness of National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System in Korea: a cross-sectional study.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dr. Melissa Norton
Editor-in-Chief
BMC Public Health

RE: MS: 1671841257226698
“Timeliness of National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System in Korea: a cross-sectional study”

Dear Dr. Norton,

I would like to thank you and the reviewers of “BMC Public Health” for taking the time and effort to comprehensive and detailed review. We revised our manuscript again to abide by the recommendations. The revised and added parts of the manuscript have been underlined for your convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,
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Authors’ Response to the Comments

Major compulsory revisions:
None

Minor essential revisions:

Comment #1:
Abstract Conclusions: Add a sentence or two for key recommendations derived from the findings.

Response #1:
We added the following sentences to better describe the conclusions as below.
“It is needed to promote public education and to improve clinical guidelines. Rapid reporting by doctors should be encouraged, and unification of recommended reporting time limit can be helpful.”

Discretionary revisions:

Comment #1:
Abstract Methods, 1st sentence, rewrite:
# “Six notifiable infectious diseases reported relatively frequently were included in this study.”

Response #1:
The sentence was rewritten as recommended.
“Six notifiable infectious diseases reported relatively frequently were included in this study.”

Comment #2:
Abstract Methods, 3rd sentence: replace “imported” with “emerging”
Response #2:
We replaced the word to clarify the meaning as you pointed out.
“In addition, dengue fever was also included to represent an emerging disease, despite its low number of cases.”

Comment #3:
Abstract Methods, last sentence, add this phrase to the end of the sentence:
# “[…distribution of time lags at each surveillance step] between symptom onset and date of notification to the Korean Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC).”

Response #3:
We added the sentence you recommended.
“The diseases were compared for the proportion notified within the recommended time limits, median time lags, and for the cumulative distribution of time lags at each surveillance step between symptom onset and date of notification to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC).”

Comment #4:
Abstract Results, 1st sentence, rewrite:
# “The proportion of cases reported in time was lower for diseases groups with a recommended time limit of 1 day compared with 7 days (60%–70% vs. > 80%).”

Response #4:
We edited the sentence as below.
“The proportion of cases reported in time was lower for disease groups with a recommended time limit of 1 day compared with 7 days (60%–70% vs. ≥ 80%).”

Comment #5:
Abstract Results, 3rd sentence, add phrase:
# “The median time from onset to registration at the local level ranged….”

Response #5:
We added the phrase as recommended.
“The median time from onset to registration at the local level ranged between 2 and 15 days.”

Comment #6:  
Methods, Data Collection:  
# 2nd sentence, edit: “…for this study that were reported in more than….”  
# 3rd and 4th sentences, rewrite: “Reported in fewer numbers, dengue fever was also included to compare its differences with other disease groups. Despite having reports of more than 100 cases every year, tuberculosis and malaria were not selected because of…..”

Response #6:  
The paragraphs were revised as below.  
# “Five diseases were selected for this study that were reported in more than 100 cases every year for 2001–2006”  
# “Reported in fewer numbers, dengue fever was also included to compare its differences with other disease groups. Despite having reports of more than 100 cases every year, tuberculosis and malaria were not selected because of insufficient information.”

Comment #7:  
Methods, Definition of time lags:  
# 1st sentence, edit: “dates of onset, diagnosis….”  
# Remove sentence, redundant: “This is the time lag to central appraisal for each case.”

Response #7:  
We corrected the word as below and deleted the redundant sentence.  
“Time points recorded in the surveillance data include dates of onset, diagnosis, …”  
And removed the redundant sentence.

Comment #8:  
Methods, Statistical Analysis:  
# Remove sentence, redundant: “The criteria for timeliness are specified by the Contagious Diseases Prevention Law.”
# 4th sentence, edit: “…reported by the given time limit.”

Response #8:
We removed the redundant sentence you pointed out and edited the sentence as below.
“…reported by the given time limit.”

Comment #9:
Results
# Remove “according to Chi-square test” or “by K-S test” from parenthetical p-values, the extra language is unnecessary

Response #9:
We deleted the phrases as you recommended.

Comment #10:
Results, Proportion of cases reported in time
# 7th sentence, edit: “…the diseases in Group I and IV (diseases of immediate concern) had….”

Response #10:
We added the phrases you recommended.
“…the diseases in Group I and IV (diseases of immediate concern) had…”

Comment #11:
Results, Cumulative distribution of time lags
# 2nd sentence, edit: “Time lags for HFRS are….”
# 8th sentence, add phrase: “Although the medians…different from each other (p<0.0001); fewer scrub typhus cases were reported by 30 days than were typhoid cases.”
# 9th sentence, remove, not informative: “The patterns of time lag distributions….”

Response #11:
We edited the sentences as you recommended.
# Added the phrase “Time lags for HFRS are…”
# Added the phrase “Although the medians were the same with 15 days, the shapes of the distribution were significantly different from each other (p<0.0001); fewer scrub typhus cases were reported by 30 days than were typhoid cases.”

# Removed the sentence you pointed out.

**Comment #12:**
Discussion, 2nd paragraph, 5th sentence, edit”

# “Our results showed generally shorter time lags than….”

**Response #12:**
We corrected some errors you pointed out.

“Our results showed generally shorter time lags than…”

**Comment #13:**
Discussion, 5th paragraph, remove, not informative

# “Other than clinical and epidemiological features….”

**Response #13:**
We deleted the paragraph.