Reviewer's report

Title: Design and Implementation of the First Nationwide, Web-based Chinese Renal Data System (CNRDS)

Version: 1 Date: 16 September 2011

Reviewer: Frank Ueckert

Reviewer's report:

Thanks to the authors for their work in the field of medical informatics. I am very sure, patients in China will benefit from the usage of the presented system, as well as scientists. The description of the system is well done and the system itself seems to be of good quality, too.

Nevertheless I have to point out, publishing in a scientific journal is more than "just" describing once own system. The described work, developing a web based data base for renal diseases, has been done in many countries/projects in a similar, same or even (in specific details) better way. This is - of course - also true for several other use cases besides kidney diseases. Therefore I have to comment the following:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. You did not discuss your work in comparison with any other work in China or worldwide. Even if unsure about other applications within nephrology, your technical work is quite unspecific and can be used for other disease as well. You used nearly all references within the methods chapter, quoting no other work for discussion. For this paper being more than a technical report about a state of the art, but not very special, web based IT-system, you must compare your work with those of fellow researchers in medical informatics. Please let me give you some questions as examples for a discussion: Which experiences, you read about, did you use in which ways? Is the workflow of gathering the data comparable to others? What are the specific things you did in the same way or different and why? What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of your work in comparison with others? Such a discussion is very important so that I as a reader would have learned something and would have gotten some of your experience. I would avoid mistakes in my own work.

Minor Essential Revisions

2. Some phrases e.g. „forms populated“ or "to maximum the value" should be corrected.

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.