Author's response to reviews

Title: A study of diverse clinical decision support rule authoring environments and requirements for integration

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BMC Medical Informatics & Decision Making

Dear Editors,

We are submitting our revised manuscript, entitled “A study of diverse clinical decision support rule authoring environments and requirements for integration”, for possible publication in the BMC Medical Informatics & Decision Making.

Thank you very much for your valuable comments. We have made changes in the manuscript based on your comments point-by-point, as described below.

Sincerely,
Li Zhou

Reviewers’ comments:
- Research involving human subjects (including human material or human data) that is reported in the manuscript must have been performed with the approval of an appropriate ethics committee. A statement to this effect must appear in the Methods section of the manuscript, including the name of the body which gave approval, with a reference number where appropriate. Please state in the Methods section whether written informed consent for participation in the study was obtained from participants.

Response: regarding the IRB approval, because we conducted informal meetings with Knowledge Engineers and System Engineers in our department to discuss their general experience using these tools, as part of an internal review of information system applications. Therefore, we did not apply for an IRB approval at that time. We made corresponding changes in the method section as following:

“In order to identify strengths and weaknesses of the individual systems, we conducted informal meetings with KEs familiar with the tools to discuss their general experience using these RAEs and the advantages and limitations of these tools. For some technical features, we also consulted SEs. This work was performed as part of an internal review of information system applications and therefore Institutional Review Board approval was not required.”

- Changes in the Competing Interests Section were made as the following:

The authors (LZ, NK, JL, SM, AF, BM, and RR) declare that they have no competing financial interests, including patents, reimbursements, fees, funding, salary, stocks or shares from any organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript. The authors also declare that they have no non-financial competing interests. Funding for this work was provided internally by Partners HealthCare. All authors are affiliated with Partners HealthCare.