Reviewer's report

Title: Acceptability and adoption of handheld computer data collection for public health research in China.

Version: 1 Date: 25 November 2012

Reviewer: Peter Byass

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting case-report on using handheld data capture, with the added interest of the challenges of using Chinese script.

Minor revisions:

In the Abstract, you refer to "QDS Warehouse" without explanation - I understand that this is some kind of proprietary server system rather than an industrial facility, but it would benefit from a brief explanation here, and a corresponding longer explanation on page 9.

Table 1: it is not clear to me why start and end times of the interview would not be automatically captured from the handheld's system time, rather than being a data entry item. Is there a technical reason for this? You say on page 7 that interviews could be automatically time and identity stamped - so was this not in fact done? Needs further explanation. Similarly GPS-derived place of interview could presumably be automatically captured. We showed in Burkina Faso that these parameters were very useful for quality control (TMIH 2008, 13 suppl 1:25-30).

Similarly the age of the interviewer seems to be redundant on a per-interview basis: presumably the ages of the interviewers are known without having to record them each time.

The important point here is that the entire date/time type of data entry can probably be eliminated completely, which simplifies the data capture.

Figure 1: the title needs to include something like "... according to a survey among 20 interviewers". The actual figure is great in colour but impossible in monochrome - please put some patterns as well as colours in the bar fills. Also I didn't understand the meaning of "handheld is more proficient" - can you clarify please.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.