Author's response to reviews

Title: Is it possible to identify cases of coronary artery bypass graft surgical site infection accurately from claim data? A multi-model comparison study

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The Editors, BMC Infectious Diseases

Dear Sir or Madame:

We are pleased to submit the attached manuscript entitled “Is it possible to identify cases of coronary artery bypass graft surgical site infection accurately from claim data? A multi-model comparison study” for publication as a research article in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Healthcare-associated infections are an important issue for medical societies, and many studies have been conducted to reduce the prevalence of healthcare-associated infections. Traditionally, large-scale studies were conducted using administrative or claims databases, and cases of infection were usually identified using the International Classification of Diseases system. However, many studies indicated that coding bias might occur with the International Classification of Diseases codes due to internal and external factors.

In recent years, some researchers have devoted themselves to the development of models to identify cases of infection in administrative databases. However, comparisons of these models are lacking. Further, most of these previously reported models were developed without verification. In this study, we compared the performance of three common approaches to identify cases of CABG surgical site infection. The results of this study might provide evidence for future studies, and we also hope to remind academic societies of the importance of identification of cases of infection from claim data.

We believe that as a highly regarded journal, BMC Infectious Diseases is the best forum for this article given the journal’s commitment to incorporating theoretical frameworks and principles into health service management and practice. Our article is of interest to all parties involved in the field, including
governments and healthcare managers.

THY developed study concept, analysed the data and drafted the manuscript, YCH and KPC collected data, supervised and coordinated the study, KCL reviewed the methods and results and revised manuscript. All of the authors have prepared, read, and approved the manuscript. There are no conflicts of interest to declare, and this study was approved by the Ethical Review Board of the National Taiwan University Hospital.

Your consideration of our manuscript is highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

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