Author's response to reviews

Title: Direct economic burden of hepatitis B virus related diseases: Evidences from Shandong, China

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Dear BMC Health Service Research,

On behalf of all my coauthors, I would like to submit our manuscript, entitled “Direct economic burden of hepatitis B virus related diseases: Evidences from Shandong, China”, to BMC Health Service Research. This study estimated the direct out-of-pocket cost of all hepatitis B virus related diseases in Shandong, China. We believe it is a good fit for the BMC Health Service Research readers.

Although the direct economic burden of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) in China has been estimated in a few studies, none of these studies estimated the direct out-of-pocket cost of all hepatitis B virus (HBV) related diseases, including acute hepatitis B, severe hepatitis B, chronic hepatitis B, compensated cirrhosis, decompensated cirrhosis, and primary liver cancer. In order to fill this gap, we conducted a survey and collected information on patients from thirteen hospitals in Shandong, China to investigate the direct costs of HBV-related diseases and their impact on households. This study aimed to provide evidences that would contribute to our understanding of potential benefits to society from allocating more resources to preventing and treating hepatitis B virus infection, as well as expanding insurance coverage for those with HBV-related diseases in China. These evidences have important policy implications for the current ongoing health care reform in China related with reducing catastrophic disease burden for the citizens.

In addition, few changes have been made as follows;
- Some co-authors’ names have been moved to the acknowledgements section;
- The results tables have been included in the main manuscript

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our paper to BMC Health Service Research and look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely yours,

Jian Wang, Professor
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