Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessing record linkage between health care and Vital Statistics databases using deterministic methods

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Version: 4 Date: 28 March 2006

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors:

We are very pleased that our paper entitled 'Assessing record linkage between health care and Vital Statistics databases using deterministic methods' has been accepted by BMC health services research.

Following your instructions, we have made revisions of the format to fit the requirement of your journal. On page 1, we used sentence case in the title: "Assessing record linkage between health care and Vital Statistics databases using deterministic methods". On page 15, we inserted a Conclusions section: "Conclusions

Our study findings suggest that deterministic record linkage using three basic indicators (i.e., surname, sex and date of birth) appears to generate the highest linkage rate among three commonly used databases in health service research, namely the population registry, hospital discharge data and the Vital Statistics registry. The matched records appear to be highly accurate. However, the linkage and correct linkage rates appear to be influenced by type of database and age, but not by sex". On page 19 and 20, we deleted the Figure 1 and 2. We carefully checked grammars for this revised paper.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Bing Li
(on behalf of all co-authors)