Author’s response to reviews

Title: Willingness to pay for social health insurance among informal sector workers in Wuhan, China: a contingent valuation study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: MS: 4467217751306191
Willingness to pay for social health insurance among informal sector workers in Wuhan: a contingent valuation study
Till Barnighausen, Yuanli Liu, Xinping Zhang and Rainer Sauerborn

To:
Dr Annabel Phillips
Senior Assistant Editor
BMC-series Journals
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Dear Dr Phillips,

Many thanks for sending us Referee 1’s comments. As you requested, we have documented in the methods section the full name of the ethics committee (page 9, para 2) and have added the following descriptions of the consent process:

**Page 10, para 1 (additions in bold)**

“In order to achieve a self-weighting sampling scheme, in the second sampling stage an equal proportion (5%) of the mapped individuals in each primary sampling unit were randomly selected **and asked for their consent to participate in the study** [46].”

**Page 11, para 2 (additions in bold)**

“First, the interviewers described the purpose of the study **and asked respondents whether they consented to participate.”**

**Page 11, para 2**

“Neither participants’ names nor any other characteristics that would allow identification of the participants after the interview were elicited or recorded.”

**Page 18, para 3**

“Out of 651 people who were asked whether they would be willing to participate in the study 621 consented to participate.”

We have further added two sentences in the **abstract** in order to describe two key results of our analyses that were previously not included in the abstract (page 3, para 1):

“When we applied equity weighting in the aggregation of individual WTP values in order to adjust for unfairness in the distribution of income, mean WTP for BHI increased with inequality aversion over a plausible range of the aversion parameter.”
“Education was not a significant determinant of WTP for BHI.”

We have added the following sentences to the acknowledgement section of our article (page 34, last para):

“We want to thank Prof. Xinzheng Jin at the Centre for Health Care Administration, Huazhong University of Technology and Science, Wuhan, China, for support in organizing the fieldwork for this study, the graduate students at the Centre for Health Care Administration who conducted the study interviews for their excellent work, and Prof. Yufeng Ding at Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, for providing us with some of the background information used in this article.”

“During the time of the study, Till Bärnighausen was supported by a post-doctoral fellowship grant (Joint International Research Programme of the Federal Government and the Governments of the States) from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).”

We have also included p values for all the coefficients in Table 5, so that the reader can confirm for her- or himself that our summary of the p values in the results section is correct (page 41).

Finally, we have carefully checked each sentence in our manuscript and corrected a number of small errors (such as spelling mistakes), inconsistencies (such inconsistent use of past vs. present tense and British vs. American English) and language imperfections (such as use of passive voice when active voice is more appropriate). We have sent you in a separate e-mail a ‘track changes’ version of the manuscript that shows all of the final changes.

All of the uploaded references are correct. However, there appear to be a few mistakes in the way the references are displayed. In particular,

- The full stop after book titles is displayed in bold
- There is an extra space before the comma following the name of cities in which books or reports were printed.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the final version of our article.

With all best wishes,

Till Bärnighausen
Yuanli Liu
Xinping Zhang
Rainer Sauerborn