Reviewer’s report

Title: Causes of death in hospitalized children younger than 12 years of age in a Chinese hospital: A 10 year study

Version: 0 Date: 29 Apr 2017

Reviewer: William Keenan

Reviewer's report:

A ten year review. Identifies the cause of death of children 1 month to 11 years in age. Uses record system of a large Chinese referral children's hospital.

Some important relationships between mortality risk, septic complications and congenital anomalies are outlined.

Gender listed in the tables appears to be an important determinant but is not considered in the manuscript. Why?

A bit more precision in the language of the manuscript could be helpful to the reader. Some examples are below.

Page 2, line 5: "could provide improvements..." Might reword to "provide insight leading to improvements..."

Page 3, line 29-31: "could ensure...". Might say "could help improve high quality..."

Page 6, line 1: "Table 2 shows..." Table is passive. Might say "The main causes of deaths are shown in table 1..."

Page 6, line 32: "it was also the main..." Might reword to "it remained a main..."

Additional clarifications are recommended:

Page 8-9: lines 59 then 1: "This improvement may be..." Reword to clarify that the lower Chinese mortality contrasted to the global results might relate to the common Chinese practice...

Page 9, lines 17-19: clarify that Wise cited deaths occurring in North America.

Page 10, lines 12-17: I am confused why the lack of DNR orders relate to more children dying in the hospital. Clarify.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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