Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of Emergency Response Responsibility Perceptions in the Local Public Health Workforce After China’s Health Sector Restructuring

Version: 4 Date: 9 April 2015

Reviewer: David McBride

Reviewer’s report:

I enjoyed reading this paper, however the major drawback for me, having read the introduction, was not being clear about the roles and responsibilities of inspectors before and after separation from the CDC.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The background to the study is a good review, but needs to be very much more focused and lead up to a well-defined question. That question is outlined in the abstract: to examine HII workers knowledge of their own duties. This is essential if they are going to be effective.

2. You therefore need to describe the HII roles before and after the change, outlining their duties before and after separation from the CDC. I would use the categories (by Department) in table 1. You do in fact outline the role of food hygiene/school health surveillance workers on page 14.

3. Data collection: there needs to be a rationale for the sampling strategy, which should include a power calculation.

4. There should be a section on ‘strengths and weaknesses’ including a discussion on bias and confounding (if you consider these exist). Are the findings generalisable?

Minor Essential Revisions

1. There are too many abbreviations.

2. You need to describe how the data were collected.

3. The dependent variables should all appear in Box 1, and line 124 et seq should appear in the methods.

4. You might comment on exactly where the duties are defined; law, regulation and National PHE planning. Or do they appear in all?

5. It appears that the responses to SD 2 and SD 5 were poorly answered. In view of this, do you have any recommendations?

6. A section on the comparison of your results from those of other countries would be very helpful.
Thank you.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests