Reviewer’s report

Title: The incomparability of cause of death statistics under "one country, two systems": Shanghai versus Hong Kong

Version: 0 Date: 19 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Rasika Rampatige

Reviewer’s report:

This is an important research and findings are very interesting. From two large cities like Hongkong and Shanghai we would expect see better understanding of underlying cause of death and not to use immediate cause of deaths like septicaemia and renal failures as underlying cause of death.

I have summerised my comments below.

1. Suggest adding a literature review section discussing implications of having (or not having) clear definitions of underling cause of death and immediate causes of death. For a reader who does not understand the definition/difference between underling cause of death and immediate cause of death the findings may be not very clear

2. The analysis of potential causative factors is very informative. For me the main reason is the lack of awareness by the certifiers and coders about the ICD compliant death certification practices. This may be the main conclusion of the study

3. Introduction of verbal autopsy for out of hospital deaths is an important recommendation but this was not discussed in the discussion with evidence and relevance to these large cities.

4. Manuscript many need to be edited for language and consistency.

5. Suggest rewritting the abstract to reflect the important findings and conclusions from the study.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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