Reviewer’s report

Title: Verifying causes of death in Thailand: rationale & methods for empirical investigation

Version: 2 Date: 17 March 2010

Reviewer: Mohsen Naghavi

Reviewer’s report:

Dear “PHM Editorial Team” and authors of “Verifying causes of death in Thailand”

I agree with all changes and revisions due to reviewer’s point

Except points in 1-d:

you have gotten data from national VR data by ICD3 and 4 digits and try to improve the quality of data by VA(death in home) and medical record review(death in hospital).

Why you present your result in ICD10 tabulation1? Tabulation is useful for country report not for researcher’s report and public health report. When we use tabulation many ill defined and ambiguous codes like X59, Y10-Y34, Heart failure, cardiac arrest, C26, C57, C80, and D00-D48 will hide in the tabulation and comparability of this results with previous codes and other data set is not possible.

Then my suggestion is that you should present a table with two or three column “before and after verification with VA and medical record review at least for twenty or fifty top causes in ICD10 3 digit format” (not tabulation)for your result, this is the most important table as a result of this part of study.

Mohsen Naghavi

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.