

## Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Adjusting for dependent comorbidity in the calculation of healthy life expectancy

### Authors:

Colin D Mathers ([mathersc@who.int](mailto:mathersc@who.int))  
Kim M Iburg ([KIB@euro.who.int](mailto:KIB@euro.who.int))  
Stephen Begg ([s.begg@sph.uq.edu.au](mailto:s.begg@sph.uq.edu.au))

**Version: 2 Date:** 8 December 2005

### Author's response to reviews:

We have revised the paper to address all of the comments of the second reviewer. In particular, we have

- \* Revised the introduction to focus much more directly on the comorbidity issue as suggested by the reviewer
- \* created a section on the HALE calculation methods in the Methods section, and moved related material from the introduction to that section. The HALE methods have been revised to be much clearer, more complete and to describe each of the steps. The former Figure 1 (with unexplained notation and boxes) has been deleted and replaced by a clearer summary in the text.
- \* reduced the extraneous information on the 5 health surveys to provide only the information relevant to the analyses reported here
- \* revised the figure captions to include a reminder to the readers of the definition of dependent comorbidity
- \* added a section to the Methods on the sensitivity analyses<sup>^</sup>
- \* Revision of the discussion section along the lines suggested by the reviewer.
- \* fixing minor problems with figures
- \* revising presentation of equations as suggested

Overall, the paper has been much improved as a result of the reviewers' suggestions, and I think it is now much more coherent, clear and logically presented.

Colin Mathers on behalf of authors.