A Description of the High Quality Evidences for Health Policy Research in China: Evidence-Based Health Policy Research

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Background: A great many health policy research evidences have being produced in China, and vary widely in quality.

Objective: To explore the high quality evidences of Chinese health policy research including SR (Systematic Review) and RCT (randomized controlled trial).

Methods: Four Chinese databases (January 1996 to March 2012) including CBM, CNKI, VIP, WANGFANG and relevant websites were searched. The search terms were health policy, Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, Random and Control. The EndNote X4 and Excel were used for data description and analysis.

Results: 10780 relative articles were retrieved in total, the high quality research was 30, accounted for 0.278%, which included: i) SRs (19, 0.176%). Which were 2 in 2006, 5 in 2008, 5 in 2009, 3 in 2010 and 4 in 2011; Involved Public Health 7 (36.7%), Medical Insurance 4 (21.1%), Hospital Management 4 (21.1%), Pharmaceutical Policy 2 (10.5%), Community Health 1 (5.3%) and Theoretical Exploration 1 (5.3%); 14 (73.7%) were published in Chinese Journal of Evidence-Based Medicine which is included in CSCD (Chinese Science Citation Database); ii) RCTs (11, 0.102%). Which were 1 in 2006, 5 in 2010 and 5 in 2011; Involved Hospital Management 4 (36.3%), Public Health 3 (27.3%), Community Health 3 (27.3%) and Rural Health 1 (9.1%); 0 was published in the periodical of CSCD.

Conclusions: The high quality research evidences are still very less in China, which the SRs have mainly published in professional journals of high influence, and which mainly focus on the Public Health, Hospital Management, Community Health, Medical Insurance and Rural Health, but the other areas is very few.