

Five propositions relating to the content of the thesis

1. Repulsing factors that push patients away from primary care facilities and cause them to seek care at higher levels are typically stronger than pull factors which attract them to primary care. Most of these repulsing factors relate to a lack of trust in primary care facilities to safely address basic health needs. (Chapter 2)
2. The complexity of higher-level facilities **is** a factor that pushes elderly patients towards lower levels.

(Chapter 3)
3. Rural patients consider township health centers as the ideal facilities for first-contact care. (Chapter 4)
4. In urban China, the improvement of medical equipment and medical skills at primary care facilities can together effectively attract patients who used to visit hospitals. (Chapter 5)
5. Visit time interacts with facility choice probability and the interaction should not be ignored when designing policies to improve primary care facilities. (Chapter 6)

Five propositions not relating to the content of the thesis

6. Chinese citizens mostly limit their meat consumption to pork, beef, chicken, lamb, fish, and duck, and hardly eat strange things.
7. The chicken or egg paradox also exists in social science.
8. For people living in big cities, expensive housing absorbs money and time which could otherwise have been spent on personal development, such as hobbies and education.
9. Primary care facilities can more effectively attract skilled medical staff seeking careers when ensuring the same salary and social benefits as higher level hospitals.
10. Urbanization has a positive impact on population well-being while also bringing negative impacts because of more crowded healthcare facilities, life and work pressure, and environmental pollution, each of which may harm population health.

proposition outside the scope of academic defensibility

11. The PhD dissertation is like your child – it is not perfect, but you are still proud of it anyway.