Author's response to reviews

Title: The Impact of Deployment Experience and Prior Healthcare Utilization on Enrollment in a Large Military Cohort Study

Authors:

Jaime L Horton (jaime.horton@med.navy.mil)
Isabel G Jacobson (isabel.jacobson@med.navy.mil)
Alyson J Littman (alyson@u.washington.edu)
John E Alcaraz (jalcaraz@mail.sdsu.edu)
Besa Smith (bsmith269@cox.net)
Nancy F Crum-Cianflone (nancy.crum@med.navy.mil)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
January 31, 2013

Adrian Aldcroft
Executive Editor, *BMC Medical Research Methodology*
BioMed Central
236 Gray’s Inn Road
London WC1X 8HB
United Kingdom

Dear Editor Aldcroft,

My coauthors and I are happy to make the suggested changes to our manuscript, MS# 1590504205902304, “The Impact of Deployment Experience and Prior Healthcare Utilization on Enrollment in a Large Military Cohort Study.” We have provided responses in bold font after each suggested change. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further modifications are needed.

Very Respectfully,

Jaime L. Horton, MPH

1. Ethical Approval
   In the Methods section, you state that "The use of electronic data records among nonresponders was approved by the Institutional Review Board under Protocol Number NHRC.2000.0007". Please clarify if ethical approval was obtained for the whole study and in that case, please provide the full name of the ethical committee that granted the approval.

   **Ethical approval was obtained for the entire study population.** We have modified the sentence in the Methods section on page 5 to read, “The use of electronic data records among all responders and non-responders included in this study was approved by the Institutional Review Board under Protocol Number NHRC.2000.0007.”

2. Background
   Please add a heading for the Background section. The Background section should be written in a way that is accessible to researchers without specialist knowledge in that area and must clearly state - and, if helpful, illustrate - the background to the research and its aims. Reports of clinical research should, where appropriate, include a summary of a search of the literature to indicate why this study was necessary and what it aimed to contribute to the field. The section should end with a brief statement of what is being reported in the article.

   **The authors have added the heading “Background” to the Background section on page 3. We believe that this section is written in a way that is accessible to researchers without**
expertise in the subject area, and believe that we have given a background of prior research and the study’s aims. The last sentence of this section clearly states the objective of what is to be reported in the article. Please let us know if we need to revise this section further.