Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and risk factors of hepatitis B and C virus infections in an impoverished urban community in Dhaka, Bangladesh

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Version: 3 Date: 1 July 2010

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Cover letter with a point-by-point response to comments

July 1, 2010

The Editor
BMC Infectious Diseases

MS: 9328924003599864

Prevalence and risk factors of hepatitis B and C virus infections in an impoverished urban community in Dhaka, Bangladesh Hasan Ashraf, Nur H Alam, Christian Rothermundt, Abdullah Brooks, Pradip Bardhan, Lokman Hossain, Mohammed A Salam, Mohammed S Hassan, Christoph Beglinger and Niklaus Gyr

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for accepting our manuscript entitled “Prevalence and risk factors of hepatitis B and C virus infections in an impoverished urban community in Dhaka, Bangladesh” for publication in your journal. We have tried to address the comments in a new revised version of the manuscript and provided the cover letter by giving a point-to-point response to the concerns raised by the editors and reviewers.

The point-by-point response to the concerns is given below:
Editorial request

Please revise the Background section of the Abstract to include context information, in addition to aims.

Response: The Background section of the Abstract has been revised to include context information, in addition to aims (page 3).

Reviewer No. 2

1. Comment: The sensitivity and specificity of estimation of HBsAg and anti-HBc has been shown by the authors. This has been shown in Discussion. Please cite these in Method section. The next, please explain lower limit of detection, PEI unit, and provide a conversion of 0.05PEI units/ml to international unit (IU) or gram values. This will allow the readers to follow the sensitivity of assay system internationally. The methodology of HCV estimation should also be given in Method section.

Response: The sensitivity and specificity of estimation of HBsAg and anti-HBc has now been cited in the Method section (page 9). The explanation for the lower limit of detection, PEI unit has also been given in the Method section (page 9). A conversion of 0.05PEI units/ml to international unit (IU) values has been added to the modified version of the manuscript (page 9). The methodology of HCV estimation has also been shifted in Method section (page 10).

Comment: Minor: I am not sure why institution 3 came after institution 1 in Title page. The institutions should usually appear after fixing the order of authors.

Response: The appearance of the institutions in Title page has been corrected after fixing the order of the authors (page 1).
Finally, we would very much appreciate your final acceptance of the manuscript for publication in your journal.

Thank you again and looking forward to hear from you soon.

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