Author's response to reviews

Title: Identification of losses to follow-up in a community-based antiretroviral therapy clinic in South Africa using a computerized pharmacy tracking system

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor,
BMC Infectious Diseases

RE: 7914179093727383 - Identification of losses to follow-up in a community-based antiretroviral therapy clinic in South Africa using a computerized pharmacy tracking system

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your email of the 11th October 2010 and for forwarding the reviewers’ remaining comments. We are pleased that our paper was to be found to be of great importance in operational research related to ART delivery and HIV care. Below we have responded to the points raised by Reviewer #2.

Reviewer 2:

Re: original minor essential revisions #5

I understand now that the same 2,548 originally included in the surveys have been re-assessed one year later and I accept the point that proportions can be compared. I was only suggesting to show in the text how the percentages were calculated, i.e. showing numerator and denominator for each of the figures: 26.9% = ?, ?, 49.5% = ?, ? etc.

We are pleased that the reviewer has a better understanding of the paper. The percentages for the lost to follow-up and death in figure 2 were calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Loss to follow up</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥6</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥12</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥18</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>48.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥24</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>52.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The requested figures have been shown in parentheses in text in the manuscript on page 7 paragraph 3.

We thank the Reviewers and Biomed Central Editorial Team for helping us to revise and strengthen this manuscript. We hope that this revised version is now acceptable for publication in BMC Infectious Diseases. We look forward to your feedback in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Mweete D. Nglazi, on behalf of the co-authors