Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with suboptimal adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Viet Nam: a cross-sectional study using audio computer assisted self-interview (ACASI)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir/Madam:

We would like to submit an article for publication in the journal of BMC Infectious Diseases entitled “Factors Associated with Suboptimal Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy in Viet Nam: A Cross-sectional Study Using Audio Computer Assisted Self-interview (ACASI) study”. We are submitting this manuscript for consideration as an original article. We believe that this paper makes a contribution in several ways.

- It has to date the largest sample of HIV/AIDS patients taking ART reported from East and South Asia (615 people) and the first study on ART adherence in developing countries to use the ACASI method.
- The level of non-adherence to ART appears to be higher than typically estimated in Asian studies. In part this may be due to the interview mode (ACASI) which enhances privacy and confidentiality and may improve the veracity of self-report.
- The finding from this study strongly indicates that ART services in Viet Nam should include screening and treatment for depression, linkage with alcohol and/or drug dependence treatment and counseling to address the belief that chance or luck determines health outcomes. The evidence also supports scaling up of interventions to improve the quality of treatment information and closer social connectedness between patients and their family and communities.

We hope you and the reviewers find this paper to be interesting. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the following email address: dmh@hsph.edu.vn or domaihoa9@yahoo.com. We are looking forward to receiving your feedback and very much appreciate your time and effort.

Sincerely yours,

Hoa M. Do, MD, PhD.