Author's response to reviews

Title: National Trends in Hospitalization and Mortality Rates for Patients with HIV, HCV, or HIV/HCV Co-Infection from 1996-2010 in the United States: a Cross-sectional Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
August 22, 2014

Dr. Philippa Harris
BioMed Central
236 Gray’s Inn, Road
London, WC1X 8HB, UK

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

We are submitting a revised version of our paper entitled, "National Trends in Hospitalization and Mortality Rates for Patients with HIV, HCV, or HIV/HCV Co-infection from 1996-2010 in the United States: a Cross-Sectional Study." We would like for you to consider our paper for publication in the Journal of BioMed Central Infectious Disease. We have attached our responses to the reviewers’ comments as part of this cover letter.

All authors have agreed to this version of this paper. This work was presented in part at the 2012 and 2013 IDWeek annual meetings in San Diego and San Francisco, CA, respectively. This paper has not been published elsewhere and it is not currently under consideration at any other journal. The University of North Carolina Junior Faculty Development Award, granted to Dr. Oramasionwu, funded this study. None of the authors have financial conflicts of interest related to the content of this paper. Kindly consider our paper for publication in your journal.

Sincerely,

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Response to Reviewers’ Comments

National Trends in Hospitalization and Mortality Rates for Patients with HIV, HCV, or HIV/HCV Co-Infection from 1996-2010 in the United States: a Cross-sectional Study

Reviewer #1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Authors’ Response</th>
<th>Manuscript Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>“The title of the manuscript is non-specific; The authors have not stated where this study was carried out. It will make for better clarity to state the country where this study was carried out.”</td>
<td>Agreed.</td>
<td>“In the United States” has been added to the title to clarify the location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>“The authors should replace the comma with a colon (:) before &quot; a cross-sectional study&quot; in the title.”</td>
<td>Agreed.</td>
<td>A colon has been inserted in place of the comma.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reviewer #2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<th>Manuscript Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>“About the results could be interesting report the detailed diagnosis of admission.”</td>
<td>We agree. The only other details available are five digit ICD-9-CM codes to ascertain admitting diagnoses, however data for admitting diagnosis are only for hospitalizations occurring in 2008 and thereafter.</td>
<td>No changes made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>“If it is possible could be important report if the HIV patients were under HAART or not”</td>
<td>We agree, however treatment and medication histories are not available in this dataset.</td>
<td>We note lack of medication information as a study limitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>“Finally could the Author clarify if HCV population was naive for the treatment?”</td>
<td>We agree, however treatment and medication histories are not available in this dataset.</td>
<td>We note lack of medication information as a study limitation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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