Author's response to reviews

Title: Is 'Opt-Out HIV Testing' a Real Option among Pregnant Women in Rural Districts in Kenya?

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Is ‘Opt-Out HIV Testing’ a Real Option among Pregnant Women in Rural Districts in Kenya?

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached our revised article on consent to HIV testing using the “opt out” strategy among pregnant women during the first visit to antenatal care. The authors have addressed the associate editor’s comments as requested.

We hope that you will find the article of interest for the readers of BMC Public Health.

Thank you very much for considering our paper for publication!

Sincerely,
Oondo Awiti Ujjii
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Comments from Associate Editor:

There seems to be a lack of clarity in the way the results are described in the Results section.

Here is how the factors associated with declining testing are described in the abstract:

"Making an informed decision to decline HIV testing was associated with knowing that testing was optional (OR=5.44, 95%CI 3.44-8.59), not having a stable relationship with the child’s father (OR=1.76, 95%CI 1.02-3.03), and not having discussed HIV testing with a partner before the ANC visit (OR=2.64 95%CI)."

And here is how it is described in the results: "only three factors remained independently associated with making an informed decision to decline HIV testing in the final multivariate model: having a stable relationship with the child’s father; knowing that HIV testing was optional; and having discussed testing with the partner before the ANC visit."

If I'm reading Table 2 correctly, the way that it is phrased in the abstract is correct. If that is the case, please ask the authors to clarify the direction of the relationship between making an informed decision to decline HIV testing and stability of the relationship between the child's father, and discussion about testing before the visit.

Response

The authors have clarified the direction of the relationship between making an informed decision to decline HIV testing and stability of the relationship between the child's father, and discussion about testing before the visit. It now reads 'After adjusting for all potential confounding factors listed in Table 1, only three factors remained independently associated with an increased likelihood of making an informed decision to decline HIV testing in the final multivariate model: knowing that testing was optional, not having a stable relationship with the child’s father and not having discussed HIV testing with a partner before the ANC visit.' This has been added accordingly under data analysis on page 13, last paragraph, lines 4 and 5.