Author's response to reviews

Title: Characteristics and treatment outcomes of tuberculosis patients who "transfer-in" to health facilities in Harare City, Zimbabwe: A descriptive cross-sectional study

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Dear Editor in Chief

Please find below a reply letter to our submission, MS: 1864240008722870 titled:

Characteristics and treatment outcomes of tuberculosis patients who "transfer-in" to health facilities in Harare City, Zimbabwe: A descriptive cross-sectional study

We thank the Associate Editor for their valuable comments to our previous submission. We have attempted to address all the queries made. We provide below a point-by-point response, and we have made changes to the paper which are highlighted in red font.

Associate Editor’s Comments:

...one reviewer recommended this ;
Data presentation in Tables is incomplete with regard to use of specified statistical methods and statistics that have been provided in the text (e.g. comparison of treatment outcomes between new and retreatment cases)

Adding statistics (from Chi or other tests used) to table, and providing comparison data for "alternative patient cohort" such as the non transfer-in cohort

and the response from authors was this one

We thank the reviewer for this comment. However the table comparing TB treatment outcomes in relation to characteristics of transfer-in patients was omitted in the interests of space, since the only significant difference was between new and retreatment TB patients (OR 2.6, 95% CI, 1.3 - 5.5, p<0.01) as highlighted in paragraph 4 of the Results. We are open to adding this table if the Editor and Reviewers see fit, but we ourselves feel that the narrative covers the points made well enough.
I suggest that the authors should take into account the suggestions by reviewers and incorporate the values to the tables.

Authors response

We thank the associate editor for their comments. We have adjusted table 1 to include a comparison of demographic and clinical characteristics between the transfer-in patients and the non transfer-in cohort. Likewise we have also added table 4 which compares TB treatment outcomes between the transfer-in and the non transfer-in patients.

We have also added a column of the Chi-square/Fischers Exact test p-values for associations between TB treatment outcomes and health facility/clinical outcomes among the TB transfer-in patients.

We hope the paper is now acceptable to be considered by BMC Public Health for publication, but we are willing to make further changes if there is a need.

Yours faithfully

Kudakwashe C. Takarinda
(On behalf of co-authors)